With Allowance

May 12. 1676. *Roger L'Eſtrange.*

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ASTERIA
AND
TAMBERLAIN;
OR, THE
Distressed Lovers:
A
NOVEL.

Written in *French* by a Person of Quality.

And rendred into *English*, by E. C. Esq;

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TO THE

HONOUR'D MADAM,

Madam, *M. P.*

I Have made bold to dedicate this little piece to your Ladyship to give the World a publick Testimony how great an honour I receive from the friend-

friendship you are pleas'd to make me blest with.

I never had any reason to accuse my self of guilt from any haughty vanity before I became known to you, I was till then so inconsiderable, I thought there was nothing capable to give me the least Elevation: But, Madam, I have felt since the force of your Charms; wherever you bestow so high a favour there's no resisting the fate of that pride which unavoidably at-

attends it, and I can't but glory now in my exaltedneſs which ſprings from your bounty, which otherwiſe would render me a no mean Criminal.

One may have good thoughts of ones ſelf for being a Religious Votary to Heaven; and Madam, I know not wherein the fault lies, if I ingenuouſly confeſs, I have at preſent no indifferent ones as to my own regard, in being with ſo much Devotion yours,

eſpeci-

especially when that awful respect I bear you, is received with so great an acknowledgment of kindness from you.

You'll find the ensuing History full of various and perplexed Accidents from which your distress'd *Asteria* is at last happily delivered through the constancy of her Love to the as faithful and generous *Adanaxus*. And, Madam, let me humbly intreat you, what ever Risque

I may run of displeasing you by this hardy adventure, to give me your pardon for the rash address I have made to you; since it was beyond my power to overcome the Ambition I had to signalize my self by the quality of,

Honoured Madam,

Your most Humble,

and Obedient Servant,

E. C.

Honoured Madam,

Your most Humble,

and Obe[illegible] Servant,

E. C.

ASTERIA, OR TAMBERLAIN.

A NOVEL.

The First PART.

WIth a great deal of Reason is Fortune made to stand upon a Globe, which is under an Impossibility of having any solid steadiness, being the first Principle of all Revolutions. We are furnished from Antiquity with several notable Examples of her Capricious humour: The Rise of Monarchies, the Elevation of mean and obscure persons to places of the highest rank and dignity; the Down

ful of an Infinite Number of Kings, and the ruine of Empires, are as so many signal Instances of her Inconstancy. But because we will not absolutely relie upon those of the past distant Ages for the Justification of this Truth, we will make our reflections upon Accidents less remote, and see in the misfortunes of *Bajazet*, with what Soveraignty she at pleasure does dispose of the Destiny of Mankind.

Bajazet was of the Illustrious Blood of *Ottoman*; his Birth had exalted him to the Empire of the *Turks*, and his Valour was so bright that it dazled the glory of those four great Princes who preceded him in it: he had almost brought *Europe* under his submission, as he had made all *Asia* tremble. His Laws were revered in the most remarkable Parts of the Earth; and never had any man acquired to himself a Renown more glorious.

Tamberlain, Emperour of the *Tartars*

Tartars, put a ſtop to the courſe of this proſperity: he was of a low and obſcure birth, but having with violence through the ſuccour of Arms placed himſelf upon a Throne, which others with trembling aſcended, his happy deſtiny ſurmounted that of *Bajazet*'s; he triumphed over him, and at that time when he look'd upon *Europe* and *Aſia*, as eaſie conqueſts, he deſolated his Country, reduced his Family to a peregrine condition, and carried him Captive to *Samarcanda*, which was *Tamberlain*'s moſt beloved City, as being built by him. The Wife and Daughter of *Bajazet* were partakers of his misfortune; the former of whom died a little while after, but the Daughter, being, either more couragious, or of a more robuſt and reſolute Spirit, was better able to reſiſt the attaques of Fortune, and became the admiration of the *Tartars*, as ſhe had been of all thoſe who had ſeen her in her Fathers Palace.

Themir, *Tamberlain*'s Eldeſt Son, who was one of the firſt, felt the effect of this admiration: he had an abſolute Empire over his Father's mind, and had abuſed it by his ill conduct, even to the baniſhing of *Adanaxus* from the Court, otherwiſe called the Prince of *Tanaïs*, his yonger Brother; and he had improved this affection to a thouſand cruelties againſt the unfortunate *Bajazet*: it was He, who had ſacrificed in his ſight the eldeſt and deareſt of his Sons, ruined the famous City *Sebaſtia*, took away the Princeſs *Aſteria* his Daughter from the Palace of *Burſa*, and without any pity abandoned all the Empire of that miſerable Prince, to the violence of the *Tartars*.

But Love puniſhed him for all thoſe Inhumanities, and his heart, as barbarous as it was, was ſenſible of the Charms of the fair *Aſteria*, ſo that much againſt his will he did learn the uſe of ſighs; and though they

they were prevented with too great outrages from being favourably regarded, yet his Rage to see himself despised by the generous, but resolute Princess, threw him into the last extremity of desperation.

He was violent and furious in his Temper; and though he had been capable of Sentimenrs more moderate, yet the Princess was inspired with no mean and inconsiderable ones. He spoke as soon as he perceived himself prest to it, but it was with so much boldness, that *Asteria* found she was coming under a new persecution, more afflictive and tormenting to her, than all the other: she answered the passionate Declarations of *Themir* with a disdainful, fierceness, which many times set him in such a heat and fury that cannot be expressed but with a great deal of difficulty. He imagined that *Bajazet*, whose courage was not rebated by his misfortunes, did fortifie this aversion, and by a new

piece of Injuſtice, removing him from his Daughter, he was ſhut up in a priſon at a good diſtance from the Palace, and *Aſteria* kept in her Apartment with a greater Guard than ſhe had before.

This procedure gave an acceſſion to the Princeſſe's hatred, and inraged her more than ever, which made *Themir* become more furious. He went to viſit *Bajazet* in his Priſon, and indeavoured ſometimes by intreaties, and ſometimes by threatnings, to bring him to a compliance; but having made an unprofitable attempt, he ſtraight had recourſe to the blind Friendſhip of his Father, and diſcovering his paſſion to him, and the fatal conſequences that might attend it, he did ſo effectually prevail upon his tenderneſs, that he brought him to that paſs of undertaking all things that might be for his ſatisfaction.

He went then directly to *Aſteria*'s Apartment, with a reſolution not to

ſpare

ſpare any means likely to make her flexible. He made her offers, intreaties, and from thence fell to reproaches, and ſtill finding her conſtant in deſpiſing his gifts and injuries, he became ſo furious, that he thought he was obliged in point of honour to conquer her; and told her with an abſolute Imperious tone, that if ſhe was reſolved to perſevere in her Obſtinacy, he knew very well how to make her repent of it in the perſon of her Father.

The Princeſs at thoſe words was ſtruck with a mortal terrour; Do not invelope *Bajazet* in a Reſiſtance where he is not at all concerned, ſaid ſhe to him, pouring down a torrent of tears; the Juſt refuſal I make to marry the murderer of *Ortobulus* my Brother was inſpired into me by my own reſentments, which were every way legitimate, and if it merits any puniſhment, only I ought to ſuffer it. Leave the

days of *Bajazet* to their Natural end, they cannot last very long, and no ways trouble the tranquillity of your Son; you ought to exercise your vengeance upon my life only, and it is against me that every thing proves an earnest solliciter to you. No, no, replied *Tamberlain*, I know better how to chuse my victims, and since for my Son's misfortunes; his days are fastened unto yours, you shall live, but you shall live to see that Father, who is so dear to you, expire in sufferings, and you shall never boast without a punishment, theh aving scorned the Alliance of the greatest Prince in the Earth. He went out as he ended those words; and the overwhelmed Princess fell into a dreadful swoon in the arms of her Woman, who had much ado to recover her from that weakness.

The cruelty of *Tamberlain* did not only consist in words, *Asteria* had order the next day to go to

Bajazet's

Bajazet's prison, and to dispose him for death, or for a marriage of her with *Themir*. Fatal Choice! for a Daughter who did so dearly love her Father, and detest that unworthy Lover! the sight of *Bajazet* had never been permitted her since their Separation; she had often demanded it, and would have given the best part of her blood to obtain it; but the fatal condition that was put upon it rendered it then insupportable to her, she refused to go, and resolved to do her self some violence, but at last considering that that Obstinacy might possibly hasten her Father's death, she obeyed, and suffered her self to be conducted, all over-whelm'd in tears, to the place where they were to bring her; she found there the *Turkish* Emperor so changed that she received his embraces without being able to speak a word. *Bajazet* asked her what return had obliged the Tyrant to grant her to come

and ſee him: the laſt of all his cruelties, Seignior, ſaid *Aſteria* to him; the ſevereſt effect of his Injuſtices; in a word, what ever he has in the world that can be moſt tormenting to us. She then explained to him in a few words the ſad myſtery of her viſit, and taking away from him all hope that *Tamberlain* could ever be made flexible, ſhe gave him fully to know that there was nothing between a ſhameful and cruel death, and the marriage that was ſo much deſired. *Bajazet* could not forbear ſighing very often during her Diſcourſe; and ſometimes caſting upon the Princeſs ſuch looks as were full of pity, and then again throwing moſt fierce and diſdainful Ones on thoſe *Tartars*, who by the Emperors order had waited on her. *Tamberlain* then muſt judge of my Sentiments by his own, ſaid he to her, if he perſwades himſelf that I am capable of betraying the blood and the memo-

ry of my Son, in joyning you to his executioner: No, my dear *Ortobulus*, added he, lifting up his watry eyes to Heaven, your *ſhade* ſhall never bluſh at an action ſo little worthy him who had given you a Being: you judge well, Daughter, purſued he, to think that mine is hateful to me, and that in the deplorable eſtate to which I am reduced, I ſhall not make a great ſacrifice to the *Manes* of *Ortobulus*, and to your repoſe, though I ſhould abandon it to the cruelty of my Enemies: but, my *Aſteria*, I will tell you more, and thoſe Miniſters of the horrid Acts of *Tamberlain*, that do attend you, may report it to him; that though this Marriage might reſtore me to my higheſt Fortune, and I might hope from it for felicities as tranquill and unretroubled, as my deſtiny has been unconſtant; yet faithful to the remembrance of my Son, and jealous of a glory, which all the proſperities of

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the *Tartars* cannot obscure, I would resist what he exacts from us with the same courage you see me now refuse it. Thus then, Seignior, interrupted the Princess, you are resolved for a death that will expose me to all that can be imagined most bloody and dismal. Think, that for my despair, I may be able to survive you: that the weakness of my Sex does neither permit me to make such escapes, or go about such undertakings, as if I had the strength of the contrary: that I shall always remain *Tamberlain*'s Captive, and the victim of *Themir*'s violences: and that through pity you owe this conversation to the perils wherewith I am threatned: Think your self, replied the Emperour, that you will become the companion of all my miseries, if you force me to prolong those dayes which the cruelty of my fate hath rendered but too long already: think, that after the loss of an Empire, and liberty,

there is more weakneſs in ſupporting ones diſgraces, than in ſeeing ones ſelf ſacrificed to them; and inſtead of exciting an unworthy pity which my glory would utterly diſallow, do you remember you have your extraction from the moſt illuſtrious blood in the World, and ſo look upon my death as an action that will crown all the former ones of my life: I ſhall leave you Brothers, whom poſſibly the bounty of Heaven will regard and pity. My death will ſuffice to appeaſe its anger, and from it you may receive aſſiſtances that will ſecure you from falling under thoſe evils which ſo much diſquiet you. Ah! Seignior, anſwered *Aſteria*, let us then joyntly expect theſe Succours, for I will have none of them, if you do not likewiſe partake with me: Will you then marry *Themir?* interrupted the Emperour coldly, will you reſolve that the *Ottoman ſhade* ſhall reproach you for the ſhameful

mingling

mingling the blood of *Tamberlain* with his? I would have you live, Seignior, cried the Princeſs out very grievouſly, or elſe I would die with you: At theſe words her Spirits failed her, which obliged them to carry her back to the Palace, without having made any concluſion: and though *Bajazet* was ſenſibly touched at her griefe, yet did he ſee her go away without changing his Reſolution in the leaſt, and contenting himſelf in putting up vows to Heaven for her, he waited his death with that undauntedneſs, which is only the partage of great and generous Souls.

Thoſe, who had been witneſſes of *Aſteria*'s viſit, made a very faithful relation of it to *Tamberlain* and *Thamir*, without ever forgetting the obſtinacy or the fierceneſs of *Bajazet*'s anſwers. But yet they made ſome further efforts upon him and the Princeſs, to obtain of them the conſent they deſired; but at laſt perceiving

ceiving the more they were preſt to it, the more they ſhewed their ſtubborneſs and reſolution, the *Ottoman* Prince was taken from his Priſon, and conducted to the place where Criminals were commonly put to death. All thoſe *Tartars*, that made any profeſſion of vertue, deteſted that action; *Axalla*, *Tamberlain*'s favourite, and one who was greatly renowned for his extraordinary valour, uſed his utmoſt indeavours to prevent it; but the Prince had a greater influence upon his Father's ſpirit, and the unfortunate *Bajazet* was unworthily conducted to the Scaffold where he was condemned to loſe his head.

But how conſiderable ſoever the perſon was, yet was not this Imperial Majeſty ſuffered to have any reſpect: he went to the fatal place, as if he was the meaneſt of all Mankind, without any thing to diſtinguiſh him, beſides his reſolution, and an Air of greatneſs which it was impoſſible

ble for all his miseries to despoil him of: he was sorrowful, but withal sedate; and if his eyes had not in them all that vigour and sprightlines as before, they lost not their vivacity from any prospect of fear or weakness. The houses were desolate, for all people flockt to the place of execution; And that confusion having obliged a cavalier, who was just then arrived at *Samarcanda*, to demand the cause of it of some Inhabitants; he no sooner understood it, but spurring on his Horse with all the violence imaginable to the Scaffold, he rode through the throng, and came up close to it just in that particle of time, as they were going to put a period to the days of one of the greatest men in the World. His eyes and name suspended that fatal blow: Hold, cryed he out, it is *Adanaxus*, it is the son of *Tamberlain*, who commands it of you. This Prince was dearly beloved by the *Tartars*, and they

with

with an extream affliction resented his absence; so that they solemnized his return with showts of joy, which for some little time he gave way to; and then pray'd the souldiers, who assisted at that action, to stay till he had seen the Emperour before they proceded any further. He ran to the Palace, where he gave an agreeable surprise, to those whom his absence had afflicted, and particularly to *Axalla*, who alwayes had a most passionate love for him.

Notwithstanding the difference *Tamberlain* had put between his two Sons, the merit of *Adanaxus* disputed in his breast against the natural inclination he had for *Themir*, and his unexpected sight caused in him so sensible a joy, that it forced him to express it in a shower of Tears; the Prince received his embraces upon his knees, and continuing in this submissive posture, Seignior, said he to him, you see again at your feet a rash man, who assured of your goodness

goodneſs, is come to demand of you a favour of the laſt importance. 'Tis not the pardon of an abſence which you have not approved, I am willing to be puniſhed for it; but, Seignior, it is the life of *Bajazet*, for which I am here upon my knees an humble ſollicitour of your generoſity. 'Tis an Enemy of a famous name and of a blood that is illuſtrious, who is no longer in a condition to prove fatal to you, and whoſe precipitated loſs may be a blemiſh to your reputation. Think, Seignior, how happy it is to be in an eſtate to do favours of this kind to perſons who have reigned glorioufly, and who are depreſſed meerly through the capricioufneſs of fortune. Conſider, that of all vertues in Monarchs, Clemency is the moſt glorious, and deſerving praiſe: And at the name of a Son who conjures you to it, ſignalize yours in the favours of a great, though now a wretched Emperour.

Thoſe

Thoſe words of the Prince of *Tanais* did not leſs aſtoniſh *Tamberlain*, then his return had affected him; he could not refrain commending within his breaſt the generoſity of his Son; but the importance of his demand ballanced this motion, and made him remain unreſolved. If it was any thing perſwaſive to him, to ſee proſtrate at his feet a Son worthy of eſteem, and the uncertainty where he had paſſed his life rendered him yet more dear, yet *Bajazet* contemning, and rebellious to his deſigns, kept up his indignation. You ought to let me reſent the pleaſure of ſeeing you again, ſaid he to the Prince, without intermixing it with the trouble to demand of me a kindneſs which it is impoſſible for me to grant you: *Bajazet* has but too much deſerved that death to which he is condemned; he is an inſolent Captive, whoſe arrogance nothing is capable to moderate, who never ſpeaks my name

but

but with contempt, and who would not ſpare my life, if he had over it that power which I have over his. I have for a long time indur'd it, but now my patience is quite worn out, and there are ſo many reaſons which authorize what I do, that I ſhould be blamed of imprudence or weakneſs, ſhould I act otherwiſe. Whatſoever reaſons you are pleaſed to alledge for his ruine, Seignior, Anſwered *Adanaxus*, you yet have more to pardon him; The Example you will leave to poſterity, the pleaſure that comes from a good action, and your own glory, which would be deeply concerned in cauſing ſo great a Prince to fall, whom his ſevere deſtiny has delivered into your hands, ought to triumph over all thoſe other conſiderations. Think, Seignior, that *Bajazet* has not long ſince ſeen what you are at preſent, yet the fate of Arms is capricious, it may do again for him what it has done for you; and if you are out of

a prospect of fearing; you have Sons, who may one day meet with Conquerours, and who may implore the same grace I now demand: Do not you then give an Example of inhumanity, but make some reflection upon the uncertainty of what future times may prove.

Tamberlain began to stagger at the pressing Reasons of the young Prince of *Tanaïs*, he revolved in his mind the circumstances of *Bajazet's* fate, what he had been, what he was, and considering that he himself was risen from a mean fortune to one of the most glorious conditions of life, and that he might by some return or other fall into the last of miseries, even that in which he saw his Enemy. You have conquered me, Prince, said he to his Son, the tenderness I have for you carries me above my resentment, and in a day that Heaven sends me a Son which I have lamented, it is just I grant you something may testify

how

how acknowledging I am: Let *Bajazet* live, I am willing to consent to it, but my Son, you must endeavour to overcome his pride, and make, if possible, an unjust Princess compliant, whom the condition of a Captive, my entreaties, my offers, the love and submissions of *Themir*, have not been able to get her consent to marry him, and if you are as sensible of my satisfaction as I am of yours, order it so, that the consent of *Bajazet* to this marriage, be the reward of that life you render to him. *Adanaxus* understood by that discourse, that *Themir*'s love for *Asteria* was the cause of that cruelty that *Tamberlain* was going to commit, and overjoyed that it was revealed to him, he made what hast he could to prevent its being effected.

He got himself upon the scaffold, where *Bajazet* with an unshaken constancy did wait his doom. He cut the Cord that tyed that Prince his hands,

hands, and saluting him with as much respect as if *Bajazet* had been upon the *Ottoman* Throne. Receive, Seignior, said he to him, this service from a man, who happy as he esteems himself in rendring it to you, would not at the price of all his blood but have done it, and who would give a thousand lives such as his, if he had them, to make you forget the necessity that obliged him to give you so shameful a mark of that esteem and consideration he has for you.

Adanaxus had a charming Meen, and delivered his words with an action so tender and generous, that *Bajazet* was more enamoured with his sight, than with that life he had conserved to him. He regarded him with all the attention possible to be given to a discourse so extraordinary, and as if his misfortune had not wrought any alteration upon his spirit. Although my life be given me upon condition, said he to him, and by it I prolong those evils which I

should

ſhould be glad to put a period to, yet I receive it from you without a difficulty, and the condition in which I am, does not keep me from being ſenſible of this obligation, the tranſcendent virtue you diſcover does already intereſs me in what concerns you, and I receive no ſmall conſolation in that I have furniſhed you with a means of giving ſuch remarkable proofs, of it. Let us go, Prince, purſued he, holding out his hand to him, let us return from the Scaffold to the Priſon, and there wait for the laſt decrees of heaven: You ſhall ſee me again, *Aſteria*, added he, drying up ſome tears, which the remembrance of that Princeſs drew from his eyes, you ſhall ſee me again, if that tender love of yours for a miſerable Father, has not made it fatal to you.

Whilſt the people by their cryes were applauding the generoſity of *Adunaxus* and the ſafety of *Bajazet*, he was reconducted to his priſon, and the Prince of *Tanaïs* having given

ven orders for all things that might ſweeten it to him, returned to the Palace. He there met with *Themir*, who complemented him, but with ſo much coldneſs and indifference, that one might viſibly obſerve in it the remains of that old hatred that had obliged *Adanaxus* to leave *Tartary*. He was extremely troubled to find him ſtill ſo implacable, but as he did not intend to make a long ſtay at *Samarcanda*, being called elſewhere by powerful reaſons, he reſolved for ſome time to bear with the injuſtices of his Brother; and after he had ſpent part of the Evening with *Tamberlain*, he withdrew to his Apartment with *Axalla*, in a tranſport of joy, that he had relieved *Bajazet* from ſo ignominious a death.

As ſoon as they were without witneſſes, they began to ſpeak to one another in their uſual way of an open freedom: There had continually been between them a very ſtrict

bond of friendſhip, and though *Axalla's* age was already advanced, he was of ſuch a ſweet and obliging temper, that perſons of all Ages were infinitely taken with his company, and he was not leſs charming in his converſation, than was his valour to be feared when ever he came into the Field. *Adanaxus* asked him a thouſand queſtions, both about the war, and indeed every thing elſe he thought himſelf ignorant of; *Axalla* gave him a particular account of all things, and ſtruck him with a horror for the inhumane actions of *Themir*, eſpecially for the death of young *Ortobulus*, whom with his own hand he had cruelly murthered, after a battel where that young Prince had done immortal actions, and from whence he went out ſo wounded, that he might have expected the ſuccour of a generous Enemy, with a great deal of more reaſon than the death he had received.

Adanaxus was enraged at that cru-

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el piece of barbarity, but paſſing from diſcourſes of war to thoſe of love, *Axalla* who had a moſt infinite reſpect for *Aſteria*, by having ſometimes the priviledge of ſeeing her, gave a moſt noble Character to *Adanaxus* of all thoſe charms that rendred her adorable. She had ſo many, and they were ſo advantageouſly repreſented by *Axalla*, that he was ſurpriſed not to find in the Prince the leaſt motion of curioſity, and blamed him for his too great indifference for Ladies. You deceive your ſelf, *Axalla*, replied the Prince of *Tanais*, ſighing as he ſpake, that Sex has too great an Empire over me, and my heart could ſpeak to you more juſtly than any tongue, of the ſenſible proof I have made of it. 'Tis neither any contempt nor any fear of *Aſteria*'s charms, that keeps me from having a curioſity to ſee them: I honour beauty where-ever I ſee it, and am too much prevented by another object, to have

any fear of that of the Princeſs, but Iam not willing to preſent before her the Son of a man who within this hour would have rob'd her of her Fathers life, as alſo the brother of him that murthered *Ortobulus*. I will, if poſſible, during that little ſtay I ſhall make at *Samarcanda*, act with ſome profit for his repoſe, and endeavour before I ſee her, by my ſervices to efface whatſoever the names of *Tartar*, of the Son of *Tamberlain*, and of the Brother of *Themir* might have, that is deteſtable to her. What Seignior, ſaid *Axalla*, are you in pain whilſt you continue here, that you talk of your removal? and have you given us a ſence of the joy of your return, only that we ſhould have the greater grief to think of your departure? When you ſhall have heard the reaſons of it, replied *Adanaxus*, you will confeſs they are not unlawful, but that it is neceſſary for my repoſe to go from *Samarcanda*. You know Seignior, replied *Axalla*,

Axalla, the paſſionate intereſt I have taken all my life for your concerns, and I am in an earneſt impatience to have your reaſons told me, therefore I ſhall be infinitely obliged to you, if you will give me ſome ſmall account of them. That I can do very eaſily, replied the Prince, we are here alone, and this Relation will not be long. Then beginning with ſome particularities a little more remote,

The History of Prince Adanaxus.

YOu are not ignorant, ſaid he to his friend, of the reaſon that obliged me to leave *Tartary*, the violences of *Themir* againſt my moſt innocent actions, the indulgence the Emperour ſhewed to his proceedings, and the fear of not being in a continual power to ſupport them without doing things of a dangerous conſequence; All that, I ſay, you know as well as my ſelf, and made me indeed reſolve, among ſtrangers to ſeek out a more happy life than that I enjoyed in my own Country.

I parted from *Samarcanda* without any retinue, concealing my true name under that of *Arſanes*, and not deſigning to tarry in any place, but where

where I might acquire ſome glory, I viſited all *Aſia* without finding the employment I ſought for. After that I paſſed into *Europe*, which I knew to be more oppreſſed with war, and I arrived there at a time that *Bajazet*'s forces were juſt ſinking under the *Grecian* Empire. I knew *Tamberlain* had a moſt invincible hatred for the *Ottomans*, and that all the *Tartars* had the like affections, and though I found them unjuſt, yet to do nothing that might one day reproach me, I caſt my ſelf into the Emperour *Paleologus* his party, who made head againſt the *Turks* on the ſide of *Thrace*, whilſt thoſe two Sons *Andronicus* and *Emanuel* defended other Provinces. My firſt eſſay was very favourable to my reputation, and without any ambition of being thought a Hero, I may affirm to you *Axalla*, that my actions began to make the name of *Arſanes* eminently conſiderable. The Emperour gave me many ſignal teſtimonies of his

eſteem, and finding himſelf in a danger out of which I had the fortune to diſengage him, he made a publick acknowledgment of the ſervice I did him, and would not permit me to be abſent from him.

We had a pretty equal ſucceſs in both Armies, the battels were ſo much favoured by the ſeaſon, but Winter coming on we were oblig'd to give our Troops ſome reſt: The *Turk* retired into his Country, and *Paleologus*, went back again to *Conſtantinople*, where his Sons were ordered to meet him. We arrived there nevertheleſs a Month before them: the Court was very glorious, the Empreſs, beſides her two daughters, *Eudoxia* and *Leonida*, had about her perſon a great many others, as conſiderable by their birth, as they were moſt killingly fair to all their beholders. Mine were dazled with them without being wounded, and heaven which had other perſecutions in reſerve for me, in this occaſion rendred

dred love unpowerful. The grateful Emperour did very obligingly sound my Elogy to all the world, and unknown as I was at *Constantinople*, I bore there a quality but little different to that I ought to have been in. Becauſe the war was in no likelihood to be concluded, I was willing to ſpend ſome time at the Court, receiving there a thouſand civilities from the Emperour, the Princeſſes, and from the moſt conſiderable among the *Grecians*.

A few days after our arrival, the Emperour received the news that the Prinees had defeated a party of the *Ottomans*, and taken a good number of them priſoners, but that which qualified the joy of this good ſucceſs, was that among thoſe priſoners there was a Lady ſo beautiful, that it was reported *Andronicus* was becomepaſſionately in love withher. *Paleologus* who was ſufficiently acquainted with the uncontroulable humour of his Son, and who knew

very well that he had no moderation in him, when ever he had a mind to any thing, did much fear the consequences of this passion, and as soon as *Andronicus* and the prisoners were arrived, he perceived his fear was too legitimate. When first the report came to us of that love, I condemned the frailty and easiness of that Prince's heart, and the inequality of his choice. But *Axalla*, I was punished likewise by the same fate, for I no sooner had cast my eyes upon her who had conquered him, but I felt the kindlings of an ardour in me, which fully assured me that I was fallen into the same condition. *Axalla*, what all the beauties of *Greece* had not the power to do, was in one moment effected by a Fair unknown: the fatigue of a great journey and the grief of her captivity, could not render her less beautiful to my eyes. Her paleness appeared to me to be infinitely charming, and the indifference which in that condition

dition she shewed to gain any victories, rendred her in my opinion more deserving to conquer all. Many hearts were forced to submit to her powers as well as mine, and *Neris*, (for so the Captive was called) in a short time became the charm of all *Paleologus*'s Courtiers, as she was the object of jealousie among all the *Grecian* Ladies.

As soon as I perceived my love, and was out of all hopes to overcome it, I found my self the Rival of *Andronicus*, I was one unknown, he was the Emperour's Son and could pretend to all things, where I could hope for nothing; but as repute and fortune do not always contribute to the felicity of Lovers, but it is love and the disposition of hearts which does determine it, I resolved to conceal mine and thought I might succeed better by that discretion than by a publick declaration which possibly might be a means to remove me from the adorable *Neris*.

You may very well conceive, *Axalla*, that that procedure so contrary to my wishes, did not give me a small affliction, my passion encreased every day and my mind was divided between the necessity of being silent and that of speaking, so that I could not resolve with my self which to encline to, my reason made me fly that which a violent inclination compel'd me to look after, maugre all its politicks. My eyes sometimes were not so circumspect as they ought to have been, and when by accident they were cast upon those of *Neris*, they made her a thousand declarations, but whether she did not understand them, or whether she was afraid to do it, those dumb discourses were very short and withal but seldom.

In the mean time *Andronicus* conjured the Emperour by all the entreaties and submissions imaginable, that might perswade a Father to resign *Neris* to his love. The inequali-

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ty of Fortune, he ſaid, was ſufficiently recompenced by the merit of *Neris*; and beſides her beauty which was extreme ſurpriſing, ſhe abounded with ſo many charms both in her wit and humour, that the Prince thought he had a ſufficient Authority openly to make this demand; the Emperour acknowledged all the advantage of *Neris*; and he had a very high eſteem for her, and in his breaſt did not abſolutely condemn the Sentiments of *Andronicus*; but having more profitable Alliances in his eye, for the good of the Empire: and the calamities wherewith *Greece* was menaced, not being able to be avoided, but by the ſupport of a puiſſance which might oppoſe the *Ottoman* Forces; he indeavoured to divert his Son by policies of State; but ſeeing him uncapable of them, he, like an abſolute Father, forbad him ever to ſpeak to him any further about the marriage: this prohibition increaſ-

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ed the fierceneſs of *Andronicus*; and made him to anſwer the Emperour in terms that were little reſpectful, and from that time he laboured to put himſelf into a condition to be only dependent upon himſelf.

Things were in theſe circumſtances for two Months, and the Princes ſtayed well near three at *Conſtantinople*, before I had ever ſpoke to *Neris* any otherwiſe then in general converſation. It was hard to meet with occaſions of ſpeaking to her in private, and I durſt not openly ſeek them; but an accident preſented one to me, which I did not in the leaſt expect, and which you may well imagine I did not fail to make uſe of.

I was walking one Morning in the Palace Gardens, where commonly I was wont to reflect upon my adventures, and for that purpoſe I fought out the moſt ſolitary places to walk in. I found *Neris* in one of them that was leaſt frequented; and beſides the raviſhing ſurpriſe her

ſight gave me, I had a greater to ſee her in ſuch a place, and at ſuch a time. O *Axalla*, how beautiful did ſhe appear to me, and in what a tranſport was I at my good fortune? One might obſerve in her complexion a kind of bluſhing freſhneſs, like to that which is borrowed from Sleep; the undreſs ſhe was then in preſented to ones eyes a thouſand Beauties which moſt commonly ſhe kept concealed. And the trouble ſhe had upon her when ſhe ſaw me, gave me a pretty kind of an I do not know what timidity, which rendered me more paſſionate and hardy. I cannot tell whether ſhe took notice of it, or whether it was only in civility that ſhe judged it convenient to withdraw, but ſhe had done ſo, if I had not ſtayed her. Ah, fair *Neris*, ſaid I to her, do not carry away with you all the delicacies of theſe places; But ſuffer an unfortunate ſtranger to enjoy by your preſence thoſe he never thought to

meet with. *Neris* ſeemed aſtoniſhed at my diſcourſe, and looking with her face towards the ground; A miſerable Captive, ſaid ſhe, is a very unfit perſon to contribute to the delights of any place, and in a converſation ſo languiſhing as yours you will but throw away that time, which you may imploy to a much better purpoſe. Would to Heaven, Madam, replied I, I could give all that of my life, and withal you would permit it, I would never elſewhere ſeek a ſatisfaction which only you can procure me. Such an earneſtneſs you now expreſs would be altogether new, anſwered ſhe very negligently, and you would have much a do to perſwade me into a faith that you had ſo paſſionate a one for that which till now appeared to me very indifferent to you. I confeſs, replied I, without preſuming to dive into what might oblige *Neris* to ſpeak ſo, I took upon me an Indifference abſolutely repugnant

nant to thoſe ſentiments that were real in me: But, Madam, the movements of the Heart, and thoſe of the countenance do not alwayes run parallel, and if you pleaſe to have that goodneſs to diſtinguiſh them, I could very well juſtify that indifference whereof you accuſe me. I accuſe you of nothing, interrupted *Neris* very briskly, and perceive your indifference is leſs criminal, than perhaps would be a cloſer application, but whatſoever your movements are, the calamities I indure do not give me the libertie to concern my ſelf about them, and the unhappineſs of my life is ſo great, that it does not permit me to think of things wherein I have no Intereſt. Ah! Madam, cryed I to my ſelf, in a tranſport of paſſion, you never had a greater in any heart in the World then you have in mine: there is none ſo abſolutely devoted to you, and though you ſeem to ſet ſo light by it, there ſhall never be

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any capable to give you the ſervices that this ſhall undertake for you. I have made it my great care and buſineſs to conceal what I diſcover to you now, that ſo I might not expoſe my ſelf to the fury of a Rival, who at *Conſtantinople* is more powerful then I am, and who I fear has enough to countermand my ſtaying in it; but ſince my fate gives me this opportunity to ſpeak to you without any witneſſes, ſuffer me to explain, Madam, and to tell you, though I appear here unknown yet your condition might be as happy with *Arſanes* as with the Son of the Emperour of *Greece*. All the while I was ſpeaking, *Neris*'s eyes were fixed on mine, and in ſpight of all her reſervedneſs, I knew by her bluſhing, by her ſilence, and by a joy that ſeemed full of fear, which at laſt appeared in her face, ſhe wiſhed there might be no untruth in what I had ſaid. One muſt love very paſſionately to penetrate into all

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theſe things, but I did not loſe any one circumſtance of them and making an happy application of them to my ſelf, I became thereby both more Eloquent, and hardy. I made uſe of that time that *Neris* was ſilent to give her an account of the birth of my paſſion, and did it with ſo much ſincerity that I began to make her believe it. She ſaid nothing to me at that time, for the coming in of ſome perſons obliged her to retire: But I could very well gueſs it by the looks ſhe gave me; and I flattered my ſelf with this thought, that when one has the art to perſwade well, one is not very far from that of pleaſing well too.

From that time I had my eyes more languiſhing upon her, *Neris* accuſtomed her ſelf to their language, and ſometimes likewiſe hers in her ſuppriſe made me ſuch Diſcourſes as were very obliging; afterwards I found out ſeveral ways

to renew the converſation in the Garden, where I ſpoke in ſuch a tender and preſſing manner, that I brought *Neris* to a compliance of receiving the offer of my love: the firſt mark ſhe gave me of her eſteem, was her making me the confident of her thoughts, ſhe confeſſed ſhe had a natural averſion for *Andronicus*, that his greatneſs and his fortune were not capable of ſhaking her, and though he ſhould be poſſeſſor of *Paleologus's* Throne, he ſhould never be dearer to her heart, nor more agreeable to her eyes. I anſwered *Neris*, that I was afraid this averſion was general for all men: and ſhe made me to underſtand by a ſigh, one half of which her Modeſty deprived me of, that in her breaſt the Fate of *Andronicus* did not determine that of the reſt of Mankind. I did whatever I could to improve the diſcourſe, and to find out what her fortune was: But all I could learn from her was

that ſhe was born in the heart of *Africa*, of a quality ſufficiently illuſtrious, and that ſhe had been taken by the Pyrates, and afterwards ſold to thoſe whom *Andronicus* had taken priſoners.

My paſſion every day grew more violent, and I wiſhed from my ſoul that Heaven would be pleaſed to find out a way for me to ſhow it to *Neris* by ſome extraordinary ſervice: but that was difficult to bring about in a Forreign Court, where I was without any power. My deſtiny was ſo favourable to me as to overcome that difficulty, and you ſhall hear of an adventure which you could never have imagined.

The preoccupation of *Andronicus* ſeemed to increaſe by the reſiſtance that was made againſt it, and the Emperour not knowing any further what means to uſe to remove it, thought that abſence only could do the buſineſs, and that he was obliged by neceſſity to deprive the

the Prince of an object that became fatal to the repose of a State. He had no very specious pretence publickly to put that design into execution, and indeed I know not when he would have had one, if being conscious as he was of the violent humour of his Son, he had adventured to serve himself with any, which made him resolve that *Neris* should be privately carried away, and that free liberty should be given her to go where she pleased.

It was an easie matter for him to effect it, & Princes do not want persons, who, without examining the commands they give them, do blindly run to perform all their Orders. The design was told them, and the hour stated; and *Neris* was taken from her Apartment, about the middle of the night, and making her to cross the Palace-Gardens, she was conducted to the sea-side which ran by them, where waited a Vessel ready to set sail for the first port dependant

dependant upon any other Prince. *Neris* is Naturally of an even and well balanced temper, and not easily carried out to make any out-cries or rude efforts. But as she thought her Ravishers were imployed by the Prince, she threatned them with the Emperours Authority, and presented to them the injustice they committed upon the person of a Captive, who was then without any to defend her; those words reached a place where very frequently I used to spend the best part of the night in walking, I presently knew it to be *Neris*'s voyce, and finding them going to use some violence to her: No, Madam, said I, putting my hand to my sword, you shall not be taken away before my Face, and though I be single in your defence, yet possibly I may behave my self with success enough to make these rash men repent they ever undertook such an Enterprise; those fellows laughed at the threats I made them,

them, and dividing themſelves, one part of their company to ingage with me, whilſt the reſt were to carry *Neris* away, they did what they could to get to their Boat. But, *Axalla*, one is not ſenſible of any danger when one is imployed in the preſerving of the object of our devoted Love. I laid down two of the Villains at my Feet with the firſt paſſes I made, and ſo clearing my way to *Neris*, with a reverſe blow, I ſtruck off the man's Arm who held her, and gave her the liberty of ſaving her ſelf by running through the Garden. Thoſe perſons who were ordered to carry her away, without making any great attempt upon my life, left me to run after her, and by that means reſcued me from a danger, in which I ſhould otherwiſe moſt certainly have fell. I purſued them, and forcing them to turn and ingage with me; I had received two dangerous wounds, before ſome of the Emperour's Guards,

Guards, who were got thither by *Neris*'s outcries came to my Succour, and knowing me to be highly in the favour of their Master, they obliged those that resisted me to betake themselves to their heels; they would not have fled, had they dared to discover themselves, for they were Messengers of an Order that was sufficiently warrantable, but they were sworn to secrecy till they had got her to Sea, and they judged it better for them to acquaint the Emperour with what had happened, than to run the hazard of publishing what they had such a strict charge to conceal.

I lost so much blood, that my strength was quite gone, and I fell at *Neris*'s Feet in a trance: but yet my weakness did not prevent me from hearing the obliging complaints she made against Fate, and the affliction wherewith she did accuse her self for my misfortune; she her self indeavoured what she

could to ſtop my bleeding, but the pleaſure I reſented in perceiving *Neris* to take ſuch pains, made my blood guſh out with greater violence, ſo that all thought it would prove fatal to me; they reconducted me to my Apartment, and *Neris* was led by *Andronicus* unto hers, who was come thither at the noiſe he heard of her being taken away; He bewailed me, proteſted ſolemnly he would be revenged on the Author of that bold attempt, and *Neris*, ignorant all this while of the truth, demanded the next day juſtice of the Emperour for it in her name and mine. He was obliged either to grant it her, or publickly to juſtifie the procedure, and not daring to take the latter courſe, through the fear he was in of his Sons furious tranſports, he ſent one of his principal Officers to declare to me the myſtery of that Enterpriſe, and to teſtifie to me the grief he was in, that ſhe ſhould be the occaſion

casion of my loss of so much blood: the same Officer was ordered to discourse with me about the means of imposing silence upon *Neris*, and of stifling the business; she believes her self mightily obliged to you, said the Gentleman to me, and at the first word will put it up, if you will but advise her to it. Counsel her not any farther to search into the business, but let her understand that possibly a greater noise would bring along with it but more troublesome consequences.

I knew what I had to say to *Neris*, and was not in a power to hide any thing from her; but that so I might have some pretence for seeing her without being under any suspicion; I promised to obey the Emperor's will, and that procured me many a happy hour with the fair *Neris* by way of visit to me.

She acquainted me how that since that accident *Andronicus*, fearing lest any other should be strongly

preſſing her to marry, aſſured her he had found out a way to marry her himſelf in ſpight of the Emperor; you may very well imagine what Counſel I gave her, and what diſcourſes Love put into my head. My prayers and proteſtations rendring her more oppoſite to the deſires of *Andronicus*, did likewiſe render my Rivals paſſion more impetuous. She grew into a fury; and one day among the reſt, after ſome propoſitions more preſſing yet than ordinary, he made her know, ſhe was to fear the worſt that could be from his violence, and that he was now weary of uſing only his Intreaties and Submiſſions. I began then to leave my Chamber, and went to make my firſt devoirs to the Empreſs, where I met with *Neris* going out of the Princeſs's Apartment, and knew by the ſadneſs of her Countenance, that her breaſt laboured under a very great affliction: the Prince was juſt gone from making

making thoſe threatnings to her which I have told you of: her heart was almoſt dead with fear, and her eyes ready to burſt into a ſhower of tears: what has happened to you, Madam, ſaid I to her? your eyes reveal ſomething that is fatal to my love, and if my jealouſies be juſt, though altogether weak, and a ſtranger as I am here in this place; yet you ſhall ſee I'll make my vengeance be dreaded by them. I can eaſily judge what you can do by that which you have done already, anſwered *Neris* to me; But, *Arſanes*, all your generoſity cannot hinder me from *Andronicus* his perſecutions. He continues his addreſſes to me to marry him, and now threatens to uſe his power, if he finds not his Love ſufficient. Ah! Madam, ſaid I, interrupting her, in a great paſſion, and how do you receive his threats? As a perſon, purſued *Neris*, who imagines nothing can be more cruel than for ever to

be ingaged to a man whom I cannot love. Ah! Madam, continued I, you ſhall never then be ingaged to him, relie upon the word and conduct of a Prince, who in any other place than *Conſtantinople*, would not ſubmit either to the Son of the Emperor of *Greece*, or to any other Prince in the world. Have Courage, Madam, take elſewhere upon you a quality more conformable to your merit, than that of a Captive; the Sea and my valour ſhall find us wayes for it, by conducting you either to the place of your Birth, or to ſuch retreats as ſhall be far enough from *Andronicus* his attempts upon you: be not afraid of my Love, it is extreme indeed, but my reſpect is extreme likewiſe: You ſhall find in me a paſſionate Guide to whom the perſon is ſacred, and a Defender, who will ſacrifice his fortune and his life to your ſafety. *Neris* hearkned to me with a great deal of indulgence, and teſtified to

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me by her looks the acknowledgement of her heart; but yet I could not perſwade her to it; therefore I thought my true name might have a greater influence over her than my words, and acquainted her with it: but it would put me to a great deal of pains to expreſs to you the trouble that this Declaration gave her.

She looked upon me a good while, as if ſhe had not known me, bluſhed, ſighed, was ſpeechleſs, and indeed all her Actions ſhowed me the confuſion ſo great a ſurpriſe put her into. However ſhe aſſured me, that being fully perſwaded of the reality of my diſcourſe, ſhe would have a grateful ſenſe of my offers, which ſhould be as laſting as her life: but the more conſiderable I became to her ſhe had the leſs deſire to hazard ſo great a Prince. I neither forgot to make uſe of Oaths, or Prayers, to conquer thoſe Scruples, and to oblige her to remove

from *Conſtantinople*, but all my efforts were inſignificant: ſhe alledged to me reaſons of reſpect, to which for fear of diſpleaſing her, I was forced to ſubmit; and leaving me, as if ſhe was fearful, ſhe might in her turn be vanquiſhed: do not joyn your ſelf to my misfortunes, Seignior, ſaid ſhe to me, perhaps fate will not diſtinguiſh you from *Neris*, and you may fall into ſuch evil circumſtances, as may make me to deſpair that I was the cauſe of them.

I would have followed her to intreat her not to harbour ſuch a fear, and to aſſure her that in what ſoever place her fortune ſhould conduct her, I would inſeparately wait upon her: but the Empreſs croſſing the place where we were, to go to the Walks, perceived me, and having called to me, obliged me to attend her.

In the mean time *Andronicus* was not Idle; he had in part diſcovered the

the cauſe of *Neris*'s being carried away, and believing he might do what he had a mind to againſt a Father who was reſolved to deprive him of the ſight of his Miſtreſs: he got together a good number of luſty reſolute young Fellows, & made a dangerous Inſurrection. The Emperor reſiſted it as well as he could, and I was ſo fortunate at that time, not to be a little profitable to him. *Andronicus* was taken, and added the ſhame of being overcome, to that of having made an attempt upon the Crown, and the life of his Father. The older and more experienced of the Emperors Council, were for having him to ſpend the remainder of his dayes in priſon; Prince *Emanuel*, being of a moſt admirable ſweet diſpoſition, oppoſed that advice, and with ſome advantages he might hope to have over the unfortunate *Andronicus*, he did ſo ingeniouſly work upon the Emperours Spirit, that after the firſt

heats of resentment were over, he received the Rebel's pardon, and promis'd him to forget the Crime.

But he had more need to repent of that too great clemency of his; *Andronicus* did not appear submissive but to get his libertie, which he no sooner obtained, but he made a new insurrection, and as you have heard, almost brought the *Grecian* Empire to its last destruction. I could not ingage my self in these disorders, I had in the former been so much concern'd as I have told you; but scarce had they begun to break out, but *Neris* disappear'd at *Constantinople*, without any bodies being able to discover either the reason of her departure, or the place where she had chosen her retreat. At first I accused the Emperour for having caused her to be carried away a second time; and besides my grief I made to him a confession of my Love, and I conjured him to tell me where I should find what he had

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convei'd away from me: But he solemnly protested he knew nothing of her flight. I could not turn my suspicions upon *Andronicus*, for he was almost driven to desperation at it, and from that accident derived the chief pretence of his revolt. All hope then abandon'd me, but only that of searching my self for her, which made me prepare to do it in all the corners of the Earth; but I was surprised by a violent Feaver, which kept me languishing very neer two Months at *Constantinople*. The Emperour had given them orders to pursue his ungrateful Son, and to make him fly where he might never hear of him again. Prince *Emanuel* had command of the Army, and as I extreamly honour'd him, I should have been exceeding glad to have kept him company; but the Remembrance of *Neris* was so much upon my Spirits, that I could not think of doing any thing, but to go and find her

out

out. I parted from *Constantinople*, after I had complemented the Empress, and embarked my self to pass into *Africa*, where according to what *Neris* had told me, I hoped I should hear some news of her. I will not tell you how oft I exposed my self to death, how many dangers I ran, sometimes beaten by tempests, sometimes assaulted by Pyrates; how many Countries I have seen, almost unknown to Mankind, with a thousand other circumstances of my voyage, they would make my relation too prolix: Let it suffice I tell you that I have learnt no news of *Neris*, and that her absence serves only to augment my passion. After I had spent four Years unprofitably I came again into *Asia*, I understood the great revolutions that had happened there, the downfall of the *Ottoman* Empire, and the captivity of the dreadful *Bajazet*; I must acknowledge, *Axalla*, I could not

keep

keep my ſelf from pittying him, and knowing *Tamberlain*'s humour, I did fear what has come to paſs, and what I have been ſo happy to prevent: the thoughts of it made me tremble again, and how unjuſt ſoever the Emperour had been to me, yet did Love infuſe ſomething in him of a paternal tenderneſs: I came back with all the haſt I could to *Samarcanda*, where I arrived juſt in ſufficient time to prevent the misfortune which would never have given me any comfort. You have now in a few words a very faithful account of the eſtate of my life, if you have at any time been ſenſible of the power of Love, you may judg, *Axalla*, if any thing be capable to give me a repoſe, ſo long as I ſhall hear nothing concerning *Neris*.

The Prince of *Tanaïs* having left off ſpeaking, *Axalla* told him for his conſolation all that he could think

think was able to make any impreſſion on his ſpirit. It was late e're they parted, and the Inquietudes of *Adanaxus* being renew'd by the recital he had made, cauſed him to paſs the night away in the greateſt ſorrow imaginable.

In the mean time the Princeſs *Aſteria* had very deeply reſented the Joy of *Bajazet's* ſafety, the ſuccour he had received came from a very dear hand, and the Prince, ignorant of his happineſs, had no mind to foreſee that the daughter of the *Turkiſh* Emperour was the ſame perſon he had loved under the name of *Neris* in the Court of *Paleologus*, and whom he ſtill loved with ſo violent a paſſion. The report of *Adanaxus's* return had no ſooner came to the ears of the *Ottoman* Princeſs, but all her grief for him was ſuſpended. She loved this young Prince as much as her vertue could permit her, he had a very tender place in her remembrance, and ſhe could

not

not without a transport hear he had been preserved in so tedious a Voyage; but when to this news was joyned the service he had lately rendered her in the person of *Bajazet*, her joy became so powerful, that she could no longer keep it concealed in her breast. She did imagine he knew her for *Neris*, and her return into *Bursa* was with too much noise not to have been published in *Greece*, she flattered her self with the thoughts that he still lov'd her, since he came so far, and that too to give her so eminent an instance of it: and looking out *Axalla*, who, as she had observed, frequently did visit him, she ingenuously confess'd she had an extream kindness for the Prince, and most passionately complayned to him that he had not given her the means to tell him her self how greatful a sense she had of the service he had done her. I know so perfectly the character of your

Soul,

Soul, Madam, replied *Axalla*, that I foreſaw that gratitude, before it was poſſible for me to ſee the effects of it; and I would fain have obliged the Prince to do what you deſire: But as he is indued with a ſincerity beyond example, he acknowledged to me the unwillingneſs he had to preſent before your eyes a Prince, who cannot be innocent in your account ſince he is the Son of *Tamberlain*, and the Brother of *Themir*: *Aſteria* grew pale at theſe words, and giving them a cruel explication, ſhe fancied the Intereſts of blood had abſolutely ſtifled thoſe of Love, and that *Neris* was no longer charming to *Adanaxus*, ſince he knew her to be the daughter of *Bajazet*. But yet ſhe pretended ſomething elſe was the cauſe of her trouble, and the reſt of the converſation was ſpent in general complements and civilities. But as ſoon as *Axalla* was retired, ſhe called a Woman, who had accompanied

panied her in All her misfortunes, and from whom none of her thoughts were a reserve. Ah, *Xaira*, said she to her, what have I learnt? Alas, in vain I flattered my self with the thoughts of being beloved by *Adanaxus* at his return, and hoped to see him again with the same transports which he expressed when I was at *Constantinople*. He was only concerned for my Father out of generosity, *Neris* was not in the least the occasion of that adventure, and far from doing any meritorious service to me, and expecting any recompence from it, he came not to see me, but to prefer the duty of the Son of *Tamberlain* to those of the passionate *Arsanes*. Alas! *Xaira*, how criminal is my weakness rendered, and how good would it be for me to follow that example he set before me, if I was capable of intimating it. I had in my misfortunes the comfort to believe he did

not

not any wayes contribute to them, they were less afflictive to me, and in a time when Heaven had taken all things from me, I flattered my self with the thoughts that he reserved for me a heart which I had no less an esteem for, then for the Empire of *Bajazet*. But I have lost it, *Xaira*, that heart which was so dear to me, that I gave it all my own; *Adanaxus* will not bely the cruelty of the blood of *Tamberlain*, and more barbarous then our Tyrants, he procures the sorrowful *Asteria* a misfortune which all the cruelties of the Emperour of the *Tartars* were not able alone to give her. I do declare the punishment of it by the criminal remembrance I have conserved of a Man, who has only testifyed to me an inconstant affection, and by the weakness which forces me still so deeply to resent his levity.

Xaira interrupted the Princess by indeavouring to comfort her, and told

told her all she thought was capable to make her doubt her misfortune, or to reinforce her courage; but she gave no great heed to her, but abandoning her self wholly to her error, she cast a thousand reproaches upon the young Prince, whilst he, blindly carried away with the desire of finding out his *Neris*, was preparing for a second Voyage all the Earth over, and found a great deal of difficulty to give his generosity a few dayes rest at *Samarcanda*.

Themir had seen him arrive there with an inraged mind, and could not suffer him to continue in it without giving him some Testimonies of it. He had flattered himself with the hopes that he should never have seen him again, and perceiving he was not returned, but only to preserve a victime from the effect of his vengeance, he was continually pressing *Tamberlain* to put [illegible] conditions in execution, upo[illegible]

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He had granted to the Prince the life of *Bajazet*, or else to have him reconducted to the Scaffold from whence he had been taken.

Tamberlain persecuted on the one hand with the solicitations of his Son, and excited on the other hand by his own natural cruelties, commanded Prince *Adanaxus* to go visit the *Turkish* Emperour and to imploy the credit which so strict an obligation had given him with him, to obtain *Asteria* of him. But though *Adanaxus* was fully perswaded that he should never bring *Bajazet*'s Spirit to a compliance to such a demand, yet he owed so much obedience to *Tamberlain* as this came to. He went then to the prison where *Asteria*'s Father was, with a resolution to use all the honourable means he could to gain him to it, and to make him consider after all, that the quality of being Empress of the *Tartars* was not a thing for a Captive Princess to contemn.

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Though *Bajazet's* life was only conditional, the ſervice he had received from the Prince of *Tanaïs*, had wrought in him all the effect it could do upon a mind that is truly grateful: he had none of thoſe barbarous blindneſſes that leſſen the value of civilities done to a perſon, and then confound them with injuries. It was not from the hands of *Adanaxus* that the effects of his misfortune did proceed; he knew him not but by a conſiderable ſervice he had done him, and he received his viſit with a great deal of ſatisfaction. Seignior, ſaid *Adanaxus* to him, after they had ended their firſt complements, if it had pleaſed Heaven to have ſeconded my vows, I would have rendered you my ſubmiſſions in a place more worthy of you than this is, but ſince my good inclinations prove weak, and mauger all my intreaties, you are ſtill a priſoner. I am come to offer you all that may contribute to make this place leſs

grievous

grievous to you. Seignior, answered *Bajazet*, according to the fashion I now lead my life, it very little concerns me in what place I spend it, for all are equal to me in *Tamberlain*'s Dominions. But do not think, Seignior, that this indifference extends its self even to what I ow you, and that it extenuates any thing of my obligations to you. I am neither forgetful of the valour, manner, or circumstances of it: For I protest to you my greatest affliction is that I am not in a capacity of testifying to you my real resentments: I have done so little, Seignior, replied the Prince of *Tanaïs*, in comparison of the reparation I owe you, that it deserves not your remembrance; but as nothing is so afflictive to those who love and are acquainted with glory, as to see such a person as you in fetters, I would willingly do so much as may make my intentions pass for effects. If you have any concern for the repose

poſe of thoſe who are likewiſe joyned with you in your misfortune, Seignior, you ought to be more pitiful to your ſelf, and conſider on the means that are offered you to get out of this place. Pardon me, if knowing, as I do, your juſt averſion for *Themir*, I preſume once more to propoſe him to you for the Princeſs your Daughter. In a more happy time I ſhould not do this outrage to the hatred which exaſperates you; but the preſſing neceſſity of your Affairs, the continual fears in which you put *Aſteria*, all that which threatens you, and what may happen, are ſuch powerful reaſons, as I am forced to ſpeak to you of it. I am ſenſible that *Themir*, is accuſed of many crimes, and I cannot own that he is not guilty as to your particular: but, Seignior, the love he bears the Princeſs may render him more reaſonable, he would not be the firſt whom this paſſion ſhould have changed, and

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what ſpeaks more in his favour than all things elſe is, that there is not any thing to which upon *Themir's* conſideration *Tamberlain* cannot be obliged. I confeſs, Seignior, it is a hard thing to conquer ones ſelf in matters of ſuch importance as this; but what cannot the courage of *Bajazet* do? If I could tell any other means how to deliver you out of this place, I would not have propoſed this to you. Ah! would to Heavens, that in contempt of *Themir's* repoſe, and of my own life, I could imagine any any other way; I would not balance the electing of it; but Seignior, nothing but this remains, of conſenting to the Marriage of *Aſteria*, and therefore I would conjure you to make ſome reflections upon it.

Prince, anſwered *Bajazet*, coldly, I do not doubt but that you would ſerve with zeal all thoſe who could any wayes move your pity, ſince I have made ſuch a convincing expe-

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rience of it; but I am both surprised and afflicted, that after you have treated me like a Prince, and have set some value upon the actions of my life, you look upon me as the slave of *Tamberlain*. Do not you judge of my Sentiments by my misfortunes, it is not in the power of chains and fetters to make me forget my name, nor can any torments debase the mind of a Prince who has prescribed Laws to the *Ottoman* Empire, and has been the destiny of many others. You do not possibly know, that this *Themir*, which you offer to me for a Son in Law, is the Author of all my sufferings; that it was his criminal hand, that basely before mine eyes did spill the blood whom I intirely loved, whose vertues promised an endless happiness to my life, and whom I saw expire by his sword without being able to give him any Succour. Ah! Seignior, if you believe me to have any valour and resolution,

judge by the tears that this remembrance fetches from me, unto what exceſs my indignation ſwells. 'Tis one of *Themir*'s moſt bloody outrages, but it is not the only One, *Burſa* pillaged; *Sebaſtia* deſtroyed; my Children become Fugitives; my Wife, oppreſſed with the rigours of her captivity, dead; *Aſteria*'s impriſonment; my own, and the treatments I have met with in it, are as ſo many effects of his furies: and ah! would you have me, Seignior, renounce my hatred in favour of an Enemy who has ſo well deſerved it? No, no, let *Tamberlain* look to his own Rights, and give me leave to injoy the freedom of my breaſt; it is a comfort to me in my misfortunes to think that this liberty cannot be raviſhed from me, but that I can without any remorſe or ſcruple wiſh to ſee *Tartary* o'rwhelmed with Enemies that may be mercileſs; *Samarcanda* abandoned to flames and pillage; *Themir* to

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ſerve as a victim to the cruelties of a mutinous people; and *Tamberlain* to follow the Chariot of a Conqueror, as little generous as himſelf. My liberty poſſibly may be too great, Seignior, but I cannot diſſemble my thoughts, and indeed, it is that ſincerity which obliges me to aſſure you, that if Heaven would be favourable to my deſires, I would do no leſs for your fortune than I would for my vengeance; for I have a very valuable eſteem for your merit, and do conſerve in me a heart that is not unſenſible of my obligation to you. I am too much indebted to your goodneſs my ſelf, replied *Adanaxus*, for putting ſo high a value upon ſervices that are ſo inconſiderable; and give me leave to anſwer you with the ſame liberty, there is not any thing I would refuſe to do to deſerve it. But, Seignior, muſt I renounce the hopes of obtaining any thing from you? conſult a little the neceſſity

of the time, and do ſome violence upon your ſelf to eſcape the fatal conſequences that may attend your refuſal: the preſent time is ſo wretched that it puts me into a capacity of dreading the future, interrupted *Bajazet*, and there is nothing that we need to fear, when we have only a life to look after, which derives all its troubles and torments from the length of it. But, Seignior, that I may not be reproached for ſlighting your negotiation, and that I may let you know how dear I account your kindneſſes to me; let *Themir* reſtore me my liberty; let him leave me to injoy the wrecks of my fortune with ſome equality; in a word, let him follow the example of your generoſity, and then I will hearken to his Propoſitions; but a heart like mine knows not how to yield to any thing, when I am in chains, and I have a ſoul too reſolute, to give to the leaſt of my Actions an appear-

ance of a baſe and cowardly conſtraint.

Adanaxus found ſo much of the Hero in *Bajazet*'s diſcourſe, that he could not anſwer him any further; only he aſſured him he would imploy his utmoſt power to incline *Tamberlain* to grant him the liberty he demanded; and ſo immediately went to find out the Emperour his Father, to whom he forgot nothing that might any wayes be conducive to bring things to ſuch a concluſion; but the Propoſition was not received, nor indeed ſo much as hearkned to.

What, ſaid *Tamberlain* to him, when poſſibly by a Sentiment that diſcovers too much of humanity, I do conſent that *Themir* ſhould marry the Daughter of the Captive *Bajazet*, do I not beſtow upon him a Grace that is ſufficiently conſiderable? He would fain preſcribe me Laws in my Empire, and get to himſelf a liberty, who has coſt me ſo

many thouſand men: No, no, ſo eaſie a compliance would load me with an Eternal ſhame; and all *Aſia* would call me to an Account for ſo important a priſoner: Let him periſh, ſince he is reſolved on't, and let *Themir*, to render himſelf happy, make uſe of the Rights and Priviledges of his Victory. We have too much neglected them, and the reſolute *Bajazet* thinks to prevail upon the Remonſtrances of our weakneſs. *Adanaxus* was very much troubled at this Determination; and though *Tamberlain* was reſolved to have him execute it, and alſo forbad the Young Prince to bring him back ſo much as the leaſt reſiſtance to it, yet could he not forbear making ſome unprofitable intreaties: but at laſt he was commanded to purſue it ſo abſolutely, that he was forced to do it, and he retired into his Apartment, as much afflicted at *Bajazet*'s unhappineſs, as if he had known the ſecret Intereſt he ought to take in it.

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In the mean time *Asteria* entered into the Chamber of this illustrious Prisoner. *Adanaxus* had obtained their liberty of seeing one another; he said that those Interviews might be conducive to the happy success of his Negotiation; and the Princess having heard that the Prince had been long in discourse with the *Turkish* Emperor, came to know the subject of it.

Ah! Daughter, said *Bajazet*, as soon as he saw her, how opportunely do you come to console me under that vast accession of grief which I have now received. Prince *Adanaxus* to whom I am redevable for my life; and who has prevented my having for him so high an esteem, is joyned to our Tyrants for my persecution, and has made such discourses to me, which coming from him are more insupportable, than all that *Tamberlain*, or *Themir* were ever able to invent. *Adanaxus* persecute you, Seignior, inter-

rupted *Asteria*, after a languishing manner! yes, he does, but in so handsom a fashion, pursued *Bajazet*, that in appearance I have no cause to reproach him for it; he speaks to me in the behalf of *Themir*, and seems to propose him to me as the means of facilitating my liberty; but all things well considered, it is still to make an attempt upon the just motions of my hatred, and this proceeding is more afflictive to me, coming from a Man to whom I am so much obliged, then if it had come from my most irreconcileable enemies.

The Princess was so disturbed at *Bajazet*'s discourse, that she was at a loss how to return any answer to it; she sighed, and in spight of all opposition she could not refrain shedding some tears, to which the *Turkish* Emperour gave such an explication, as they did not deserve; but, Daughter, pursued he, looking upon her very stedfastly, I perceive this

this greatly afflicts you; would you have forgot what you owe to the resentments of your Father, and to the blood of *Ortobulus*, and should the *Tartar* Prince have come to speak to me at your intreaty? at mine? Just Heavens! cried the sorrowful Princess: Ah! Seignior, you penetrate into the sentiments of my breast greatly to my disadvantage, to think I am in the least capable to ingage *Adanaxus* to speak in *Themir's* favour, how you o'rwhelm me with joy, my Child, added *Bajazet*, in giving me this protestation, let it be to you an indispensable Law; and because possibly we may not always injoy this liberty of conversing together, observe diligently this I am going to say, that what violence soever is used against me, do not you betray any weakness at it; prefer this charge of mine to all that a paternal affection can inspire you with: be you generous by my example, and give up your life with

mine, if it be neceſſary, rather than betray my juſt reſentments againſt *Themir*.

The Princeſs preſently promiſed the Emperor her Father what he had exacted from her obedience; the diſintereſſed Love of the Prince of *Tanaïs* had given her a real tenderneſs: ſhe had not the power to defend her ſelf from being in love with a perſon who was ſo worthy of her kindneſs; and being ſenſible by a cruel experience, that though he ſhould deſerve it leſs, ſhe could not get him from her breaſt, ſhe withdrew to her own Apartment ſo drowned in ſorrow, and filled with deſpite, that ſhe had almoſt reſolved upon ſome actions that would have been unworthy both of her moderation and courage. She made *Xaira* to be called, to whom ſhe recited all that *Bajazet* had told her, and accompanying her diſcourſe with a thouſand reproaches againſt her faithleſs adorer,

ſhe

ſhe ſtirred up ſo much pity in her woman, that ſhe appeared as much afflicted as the Princeſs. He is unfaithful, this *Arſanes*, ſaid ſhe to her, who ſeemed ſo little capable of infidelity; he betraies both his oaths, and my hopes, and not only forgets the Love he promiſed *Neris*, but he would with his own hands deliver her into thoſe of an unworthy Rival. Ah! *Xaira*, how treacherous is the Sex of Men, how fatal is that of ours, and how wretched and little experienced do we diſcover our ſelves, when we believe any thing that Mankind tells us? *Xaira* made her no anſwer but with her tears, which were mingled with thoſe of the Princeſs, but fate was preparing for them occaſions of grief that were more legitimate, and they ought to have reſerved thoſe they then ſhed for a more preſſing opportunity.

Bajazet was Maſter of the motions of his Soul, and kept them from

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breaking out by any action contrary to his constancy; but he could not prevent the impression they made upon his health. The Prince of *Tanais* his visit had extreamly troubled him; that of *Asteria* had much increased it, and all this succeeding the preparatory of an unworthy punishment, and of a long retinue of miseries, made him fall into a sickness which he no sooner felt coming upon him, but he judged it would be his mortal one. If he was affected with it, it was only with joy; and the violence of his distemper did not in the least deprive him of his reason, for he perceived with pleasure by the diminution of his health, that his sufferings were now ready to take their leave of him, and to end with his life. Yet he lay languishing many dayes; but finding himself almost at his last period, he ordered that *Asteria* should be called; and the Princess observing in his counte-

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nance the infallible presages of his death, fell into such an agony of grief, that it wanted but little to cast her into the resembling condition. The dying Emperour indeavoured as well as he could to comfort her; he commanded her to receive the assistances of the Prince of *Tanaïs*, as from the only person could give her such as were generous, and disinteressed; and being desirous to ingage that Prince not to betray his confidence in him; he sent to beg of him the favour to come unto his prison. The Prince would not have stay'd for this Intreaty, if he had not apprehended his visit might be troublesome: he went to him in all haste, and *Bajazet* reaching out his hands to him; merciful death is now going to free me from the Tyranny of *Tamberlain*, Seignior, said he to him, and I on a suddain feel that fate is robbing him of the pleasure to bring me new persecutions, or to exercise his

generosity,

generosity, if ever he should be made capable of it. I should look upon this so much longed for moment without any trouble, if I did not apprehend it would prove fatal to the unfortunate *Asteria*; and that having no longer the resolution of her Father to support her, she will fall into a misery that will be more dreadful to her than the most shameful death in the world. Relieve me, Seignior, from this fear, and please to give me your promise to protect a deplorable Princess, whom at my death I commit into your hands. Captivity, death, and the other caprices of fortune have not yet been capable to render *Bajazet* a suppliant; but a paternal affection has greater influence than all these things, and you see me with tears beseeching you to defend *Asteria* against the violence of *Themir*. She is prudent and couragious; but she is young, and my Child, promise me, Seignior, that she shall have

your pity, and that in her you will consider the remains of a precious blood, that will owe all her glory to you, if you afford it a generous succour against the violence of her Tyrants.

Adanaxus was so moved by *Bajazet's* discourse, that he could not refrain his tears; he would not have ballanced giving him all the promises he was able to exact, if he had not apprehended himself too weak to make them good; and this Impuissance rendering him somewhat reserved; *Bajazet*, though he knew himself sufficiently generous, suffered himself to be surprized with some little diffidence, and ordered the Princess to be called, that she might indeavour to bring *Adanaxus* to a determination by her presence, or to give her stricter orders than yet she had received. She had heard the Prince of *Tanaïs* was with the Emperor, and wavering between a secret desire of seeing

him

him again, and an inraged paſſion ſhe thought he juſtly deſerved, ſhe had paſt away the time of *Bajazet's* converſation with him in ſuch diſquietudes as can never fully be expreſt: there were ſtill ſome marks of her trouble upon her countenance, and the tears ſhe was ſo prodigal of at her Father's ſickneſs, had made her eyes all red, as they had put an extream paleneſs into her face; but yet this change made her not unknown to the eyes of the *Tartar* Prince, he came up three or four ſteps to her, and his ſurpriſe not permitting him to come any farther, he ſtop'd and became immoveable: and found himſelf at that juncture of time capable of doing nothing but giving her his moſt languiſhing regards. He at laſt pronounced the Name of *Neris* many times over, with ſuch remarkable demonſtrations of Love, that *Aſteria* was almoſt certain of her errour, and became as weak as *Adanaxus*. The *Turkiſh*

th Emperor looking upon them with as great an astonishment as sensibility, was going to demand of them the reason of their so strange surprise, but he was prevented by the coming in of Prince *Themir*.

Possibly he hop'd, that as the extremity of his sickness did render him more weak, it likewise would make him more complying, and he came to make his last essay to conquer his valiant resolution: but it seemed to have an accession by the sight of *Themir*; and *Bajazet* imagining that that Prince came but to tyrannize over the last moments of his life, was so seised with rage and horror, that he fell into mortal convulsions. The Princess ran to him almost distracted with grief, and the Prince of *Tanais* making an effort upon himself to succour a man who was become so dear to him, sent for all *Tamberlain*'s Physicians, though their art to him was unprofitable. *Bajazet* gave them no other signs of life,

life, but by his looks, which though dying, yet expreſſed the horror he had for *Themir*; and expiring in the Arms of the afflicted *Aſteria*, ſhe had reaſon enough to make her reproaches againſt *Themir*, for that his viſit had ſome minutes ſooner haſtened the death of the unfortunate *Bajazet*.

She did not conceal from him this new cauſe of her reſentment; but forcing away thoſe Sobs which hindered her Speech; Go on, Barbarian, ſaid ſhe to him, expoſe me ſtill to thy ſight for ſome time, and by that exceſs of thy cruelty joyn the miſerable *Aſteria* to the Emperor her Father, and to Prince *Ortobulus*. Thoſe words having ſtruck Prince *Adanaxus* to the Soul, he went to conjure *Themir* to render himſelf ſenſible, now it was in his power, and to grant to the tears of *Aſteria* ſome hours of ſolitude. But *Themir* too much hated his Brother, and had obſerved him to be too favourably

vcurably diſtinguiſhed by the *Turkiſh* Emperor, and his Daughter, to receive his Counſels with any patience. I did not come hither, ſaid he very fiercely to him, to receive any advice from you; and I can ſcarcely apprehend the motive of this confidence, though I would inſtantly puniſh the Author of it, if I did not obſerve in it ſome circumſtances which I would examine before ever I did inflict that puniſhment. *Adanaxus* found himſelf no longer to be in a ſuffering humour, and ſince he knew his *Neris* was *Aſteria*, he quickly perceived in *Themir* ſuch qualities that might make him diſpence with his wonted moderation. What would be a boldneſs in Another, ſaid he to him, muſt be called by another name in the Prince of *Tanaïs*; and if till now the reſpect I owed to the Emperor has conſtrained me to ſome obſervances; even that reſpect obliges me to defend in my perſon the honour

nour of his blood, and to prevent the doing any outrage to it. *Themir* ſtormed at thoſe big words he ſaid to him, and but that *Axalla* very fortunately came in, the preſence of the Princeſs would not have been powerful enough to have kept the two Brothers from a bloody ingagement: but that Illuſtrious Favourite making uſe of the power he had over the ſpirit of *Adanaxus*, to oblige him to withdraw, and the extream affliction that *Aſteria* was in, having at laſt conſtrained *Themir* to leave her to her repoſe, this difference was ſuſpended, and *Axalla* ran to advertiſe the Emperor of it, that ſo he might put his Authority in force to make an abſolute accommodation between them.

But on the other hand the proud *Themir* was no ſooner got to the Palace, but he cauſed *Odmar* to be ſought for: This perſon had been Governour of the Prince of *Tartary*, of a wicked and pernitious ſpirit,

rit, and a barbarous humour, and who had inſpired into him by a dangerous education, thoſe violences and furious reſolutions, which made him capable of ſo many cruelties, and he would lay his contrivances with ſo much artifice and ſecurity, that though he had been of his blood, they could not have more reſembled thoſe of *Odmar*. As he was *Themir*'s only confident, it was in the Counſels of a man ſo capable as he was to give him ſuch as were conformable to the violent tranſports he was at that time in, that that Prince was ſo earneſt to have him found out, that he might be relieved from the trouble that poſſeſt him, whilſt the afflicted *Aſteria* poured out a flood of tears for her Father's death, in her Apartment of the Palace, whither ſhe had been reconducted; and *Axalla*, who found the Emperor ingaged with ſome of his Nobles about very important Affairs, could not

ſay

ſay any any thing to him of the Princeſs; but being by his Orders commanded to attend him, *Adamaxus* was deprived of the conſolations that that Prince might give him, and of learning from him the truth of her adventure, and his coming again to know that *Aſteria* proved to be his *Neris*.

The End of the Firſt Part of Aſteria.

ASTERIA,

ASTERIA,

OR

TAMBERLAIN.

A NOVEL.

The Second PART.

THE First Counsels that *Odmar* gave *Themir*, after he had understood what had past in *Bajazet*'s prison, were to search into the Sentiments which induced the Prince of *Tanaïs* to be so sensible of his loss, and *Asteria*'s grief; and what made him so fierce in his Answers; and pressing *Themir* with an opinion that they might possibly proceed from Love, he instilled into

into him a hatred againſt the young Prince, which proved the occaſion of a very violent jealouſie.

They fell preſently upon their ſearch, and as nothing was difficult to them, they made the next day all thoſe come before them, who had attended *Bajazet* in in his ſickneſs; and the leaſt promiſe of a Prince, who was able to do all things, made them affirm that before *Themir* came into the room, the *Turkiſh* Emperor, and *Adanaxus* frequently flung themſelves into one anothers embraces; at the ſight of *Aſteria* the Prince of *Tanaïs* ſeemed extraordinarily ſurprized, and had often called her by another Name then that they knew her by: there was nothing more needful to perſwade ſuſpitious ſpirits, than that the acquaintance of the Princeſs and *Adanaxus* was not of a new foundation, but there was a particular underſtanding and intrigue between them. In *Themir's*

first rage, he thought upon nothing, but stabbing his Brother before *Asteria*'s face; but *Odmar*, who was more prudent in his cruelty, convinced him that it would be a great deal better to destroy such an Enemy with more safety, and less noise.

Themir too much relied upon *Odmar*'s advice, not to submit himself to it; and fearing lest the Prince of *Tanais* should find out some way to see the Princess, he was resolved to take the surest measures he could to prevent him in it: and addressing himself to the Emperor, he told him, that *Asteria* being deprived of having any further fears for her Father, might be contriving now how to make her escape, and therefore it would be requisite to have her Guards doubled, and not to permit any body to make her any Visits. *Tamberlain* presently consented to that new precaution, and made *Themir* Master of that affair, who immediatly commanded

an Officer to go and double *Asteria*'s Guard, and to forbid any entrance into her Apartment besides himself; the Officer obeyed him, but as he was coming up to the Princess's Chamber, he met *Adanaxus*, who was just joyned with *Axalla*, as he was coming from it; the sight of the Guards made the Prince question the truth of it; he presently asked them what was the occasion of their being in that place; and having learned it, his first choler had e'n almost proved fatal to them. He had laid his hand upon his Cimetar, but the prudent *Axalla* representing to him the necessity he had to suffer *Themir* freely to act his pleasure, through his want of power to oppose him in it with success, and that by such a violent procedure he might possibly loose the means of being serviceable to the Princess with the Emperour, who was so strangely fond on *Themir*, that he looked

upon him as one, whom he had not the power to deny any thing. *Axdanaxus* was perſwaded by him, contenting himſelf with a deep ſigh; he was juſt going to give *Axalla* an account of his acquaintance with *Aſteria*; not having as yet met with any convenient opportunity to do it, as alſo of the deſign he had to go and aggravate to *Tamberlain* the cruelties that were uſed againſt an illuſtrious, and a miſerable Princeſs, when he perceived *Themir* coming towards him, whoſe impatience of knowing whether his Orders were put in execution had cauſed him to be upon the back of the Guards; they looked upon one another with eyes that no whit diſcovered the relation that was between them, and *Themir* beginning the diſcourſe in a very opprobrious and ſcornful manner; have you been conſoling *Aſteria* after the Death of *Bajazet*, ſaid he to him? and may we hope that the acknowledgement ſhe owes

you will be any obligation to make her ſatisfie the Emperor's pleaſure and my deſires? you expreſs your deſires by violences ſo outragious to a generous breaſt, replied *Adanaxis*, that I can ſcarce believe they can be favourably heard: and the negotiations I have undertaken in your favour are too ill grounded to give you any hopes of their happy ſucceſs; the indeavours you uſe in explaining them, anſwered *Themir*, do contribute much to the rendring of them unprofitable, and I have great obligations to you which I am ſufficiently informed of, we may one day diſcourſe of them more openly, added he, with a furious look; in the mean time, I ſhall go and know of the Princeſs what you have done for me. As he ended thoſe words, he turn'd towards *Aſteria*'s Apartment, and *Axalla* got the Prince of *Tanais* away, for fear leſt at the return ſome other diſcourſes more fierce and bitter ſhould make them proceed to worſe actions.

I

I will leave you near *Asteria*, ſaid *Adanaxus* to him, when they were got to another place. You are juſt now come from her, have you not procured ſome abatement of her grief? or does ſhe ſtill abandon her ſelf to it with the ſame violence? I did not entertain her long, replied *Axalla*; but, Seignior, ſince you are pleaſed to ſpeak of *Asteria*, preferably to what we may ſay of *Themir*, give me leave to take notice, that you ſeem to be very ſenſible of her misfortunes, and the ſcruple you made of ſeeing her has not been able to ſtand againſt the firſt moments of her ſight. Ah! dear *Axalla*, anſwered the Prince, it is not from to day that her ſight has had its effect upon my heart, and to tell you in one word the moſt ſurpriſing thing that everyou have heard; that *Asteria* whom you ſee at *Samarcanda*, is the ſame *Neris* to whom I did devote my ſelf in the Court of the *Grecian* Empe-

ror. What? Seignior, interrupted *Axalla*, can it be true you tell me? and has the Daughter of *Bajazet* before this laſt Captivity felt the miſeries of a former one? Alas, anſwered *Adanaxus*, it is but too certain for my repoſe: yes, *Axalla*, it is the Father of *Neris*, to whom *Tamberlain* has procured all theſe misfortunes; I am of that blood which is ſo juſtly hateful to her; but what heightens my affliction to the laſt extremity, is that I have made uſe of all my Rhetorick to get her to be delivered over to the barbarous *Themir*; and ſhe may ſuſpect me of having preferred a baſe and unworthy complaiſance for the deſires of of my Father, to that fidelity which is redevable from me to her.

Axalla could ſcarce recover himſelf out of this ſurpriſe, and any other beſides the Prince would have had a difficult task to convince him of the reality of what he then heard; but his ſincerity not leaving

ing in him any room to doubt of ſo extraordinary a truth, and foreſeeing the diſorders that this accident was likely to bring into the Imperial Houſe of *Tartary*. Ah! Seignior, ſaid he to the Prince with grief, how fatal is this *Neris* to thoſe States where her deſtiny has conducted her, and how cruel a way does ſhe take to revenge *Bajazet* of the rigours of his captivity: let us not think of the revenges ſhe may exerciſe over the Children of *Tamberlain*, anſwered *Adanaxus*, and reflect upon nothing but how to make her know the real ſentiments of *Arſanes*: If I did follow my tranſports, I ſhould indeavour to find at her feet either my death or juſtification; but yet I am not leſs reſpectful than ſhe is cruel; my ſight would poſſibly trouble her and yet I ſtudy the tranquillity of her life: go then, and ſee her, I conjure you, you are now acquainted with our Intereſts; improve thoſe

of the passionate *Adanaxus*; the tears that *Neris* sheds, have not concealed her anger from me, and whether she considers me as the son of the Tyrant, or as a Lover that is unworthy of her, it is most certain that she indeavours to shun me.

So far as *Axalla* durst venture himself in the favour of *Adanaxus*, being more generous then he was politick, he made him a promise to do whatsoever he desired; whereupon the Prince reassumed some hopes, but they were cruelly abused; when *Axalla* told him, that having been to see *Asteria*, his entrance into her apartment had been refused him. This indignity was very outragious to such a person as he was; but he presently understood that this was an effect of *Themir's* precautions, and of *Odmar's* counsels; and the only thing he then could do, was to advise the Prince to patience; but yet it was not in his power to keep him from making

making his complaints to the Emperor of the severities that were used to *Asteria*.

Seignior said he to him, *Bajazet* is dead; there only now remains a fair young Princess in your fetters, whose Eminence and Sex should make you dispense with suffering her to feel the weight of them; yet, Seignior, after the death of a Father whom she so dearly loved, in a time that she is capable of nothing but tears; her guards are doubled, she is reduced to seek her consolation in her grief, and you use such rigorous and cruel securities, as if she was capable of troubling your Empire, or of tearing your Conquests from you: and what opinion of the *Tartars* will this treatment cause all the rest of the World to have, Seignior? they will take us to be *Barbarians*, and that not without reason; a little more mildness would make them frame more advantageous Ideas of us, and the

Princeſs *Aſteria* would have the leſs to ſuffer, and the leſs to complain of. I do not mean *Aſteria* ſhall play the Tyrant here, anſwered *Tamberlain*, nor do I think a Conquerour who has deſtined her for his Son, ought not to give any advantageous Idea's of his clemency. You are convinced of her hatred for *Themir*, as likewiſe of what ſhe is able to make him undertake to ſhun it; it is that conſideration which makes me permit thoſe precautions he has taken; if ſhe was leſs violent, I would command you to go and ſee her, and indeavour to perſwade her, but you are the Son of *Tamberlain*, and that is ſufficient to keep her from hearkening to you. The Prince would fain have returned his Father an anſwer, and poſſibly would have accquainted him with the reaſon of his being ſo ſenſible of *Aſteria's* captivity, but the Emperor did not give him time to do it, but went out about

ſome important affair. *Adanaxus* clearly perceived that he could not change the face of things, and therefore retired with his mind full of a thouſand bloody imaginations.

In thoſe meaſures the Artificious *Odmar* had cauſed *Themir* to take, there was not a word mentioned of *Adanaxus*, for fear it might be thought it was a reſult of his hatred, and of their firſt fallings out: and *Odmar*, who was continually improving himſelf in the favour of the Prince of *Tanaïs*, that ſo he might prevent appearances, would not at all be ſeen in the matter, but contented himſelf with ſecretly making the dangerous poiſon to work of which his breaſt was ſo full: He ſought out whatſoever might diſcover to him the intrigue between *Aſteria*, and Prince *Adanaxus*, and the effect did ſo abundantly recompence his cares, that by ſeducing two of the domeſtiques, he came

to

to understand that they had their first acquaintance at *Constantinople*, and that *Adanaxus* had not run through so many remote places as they had follow'd him to, but only to find her out. *Odmar* overjoy'd at this new assurance, confirmed *Themir* that his brother was now his Rival, and redoubled a rage in him, the effects of which were prevented by those very reasons before mentioned.

In this manner two Months were spent, *Themir* daily proved *Asteria*'s persecutor which made her lead a life suitable to the grief she had upon her, *Adanaxus* was perpetually languishing for her, and the Emperor suffered all things to run which way was most agreeable to the Son whom he little better then adored.

One night, when *Adanaxus* could take no repose, he went out of his own apartment into a great long Terrace, full the length of *Tamberlain's*

berlain's palace; the Princeſs's chamber joyned to it, and it was to be neer it at leaſt that he choſe that place to paſs away his hours of inquietude: The Moon ſhone very bright, and the Prince of *Tanaïs* had no ſooner leaned himſelf againſt one of the Balliſters that incompaſſed the Terrace, but turning his head at the noiſe of ſome ſighs he heard emitted near him, he perceived a Lady whom he immediately knew to be the Princeſs: her guards, leſs ſevere then their Maſter, permitted her that liberty, which ſhe only made uſe of in the night, and ſhe had ſo little a deſire of diſcovering her ſelf to him, that ſhe did whatever ſhe could to prevent his ſeeing of her: Not that ſhe did not know *Adanaxus*, but to prevent her errour, ſhe was going to deprive him of her company. But the Prince did not give her time to do it; he came, and threw himſelf at her feet, and

kept

kept her by an amorous violence; notwithstanding all her indeavours to get away from him. 'Tis true her heart did not absolutely give way to those resentments; but a motion more powerful then despite, pleading in *Adanaxus's* favour, did somewhat qualify an anger that could not withstand the imperious force of Love, and made that innocent joy prevail of seeing a person dearly beloved after so long and tedious an absence; the Prince was offering several times to speak, without being able to find expressions: this silence was looked upon by *Asteria* as a Remorse, though she found her self disposed to pardon him if he was truly penitent, yet she had no mind to make a present discovery of her weakness to him; what transports do bring you again to *Asteria's* feet, said she to him, is it in favour of *Themir* that you come with this submission, and

do

do you addreſs your ſelf to me, as to the unfortunate *Bajazet*, to deſire my hand for the murtherer of my Brother? This reproach gave the Prince of *Tanais* ſome new hopes, and as jealouſie is not a work of indifference, he thought if that was the real cauſe of *Aſteria's* anger, he ought not to believe it invincible. I do not lye at your feet as *Themir's* protector, Madam, replied he, it is my Love; which abſence and time has not the power to diminiſh, that has brought me hither again: And if I have demanded the daughter of the *Turkiſh* Emperour for the Son of *Tamberlain*, it was through my ignorance that his *Aſteria* was my adorable *Neris*. Did not you know it, interrupted the Princeſs, have you been the only perſon in *Paleologus's* Court, who has been ignorant of it? my return to *Burſia* made a ſufficient noiſe to be publickly known; and I am aſſured there is not one that dwels at *Conſtantinople*, who has not heard

heard that *Neris* was *Bajazet's* daughter. Ah! Madam, replied the Prince, do you think your loss permitted me to wait patiently at *Constantinople*, for the effects wherewith it must needs be attended, and do you believe, *Adanaxus*, who had endeavoured to make you understand how absolutely he was at your devotion, could after your departure with any quietness live in a City where only your fair eyes had the power to keep him? Ah *Neris*, how injurious is this suspicion, and how ill a character have you framed of my Love, if you have been capable of any? being overwhelmed with grief for your absence, I could not find any *Asylum* for my despair, but was forced to bear it with that ardor, which is inseparable from the most passionate adorers over unknown Seas, and through the desarts of *Africa*, and without ever being frightened at a thousand deaths which were daily present to my eyes, I still continued

tinued my wandring, and guided only by my grief, even to that moment in which my destiny proved so happy as to bring me to you again; and yet you have accused me for having unworthily heard news of you in *Paleologus* his Palace, and possibly upon that reflection have hated me. What, interrupted *Asteria* once more, is it possible that you should not have had any knowledge of the truth of my condition? No, Madam, pursued *Adanaxus*, I have heard nothing but what has preserved me in my errors; as soon as ever you disappeared, a violent, as well as hasty seizure reduced my life almost to its last period; and I was yet languishing under that distemper, when I embarked to find you out through all the places of the World. Remember, cruel *Asteria*, the confidence you made me, and judge whether I ought to look for you in *Bursa*, whom I thought in *Egypt*, in *Mauritania*,

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in *Ethiopia*, or in any other part of *Africk*, could I inform my self of *Bajazet*'s daughter, when I was running after an *African* Lady, and could I, to say no more, be in that remission you suspected me of, since I gave you what reserve all the movements of my life, and all the affections of a heart, which you have wrong'd by your mistrustfulness?

The Princess hearkened to *Adamaxus* his Justification with all that content and satisfaction which the certainty of a happiness that one desires and hopes for could produce. I confess, said she to him, when he had done speaking, my suspicions have been unjust; but, Seignior, consider whither I could do less, having such probabilities of the truth of your desertion, I was perswaded you must needs know me, and at a time wherein as much a Son of *Tamberlain*, and Brother of *Themir* as you were, I looked upon you still

no

no otherwiſe then as a Prince that was very dear to me, then as a Man in whom the blood of our Tyrants did ſtrike no horrour in me; you came back to *Samarcanda*, you did to ſpeak the truth, do a great ſervice for *Bajazet*, but you refuſed to ſee me; and went to demand me of my Father for one that was a *Barbarian*, whom I have a thouſand reaſons to deteſt; was not all this enough to allarm my tenderneſs, can you find any thing in my reſentment to complain of, if you conſider the cauſe of it, had not an indifference after ſuch an occaſion been more injurious for you, then the anger which I have not been able to conceal? Yes, Madam, anſwered the Prince of *Tanais*, you have too many reaſons to look upon me as guilty, and I have a thouſand more to be eternally ſenſible of your favour and goodneſs: But my Princeſs, ought I not to fear that thoſe great Events which have aſtoniſhed

ſtoniſhed all the earth, thoſe tears and ſufferings which mine have procured to you, the outrages you have received from them, and the perſecution you are ſtill expoſed to beſides this birth which I owe to *Tamberlain*, ſhould change my deſtiny, and keep me from finding in *Aſteria* the Adorable *Neris*? Seignior, purſued ſhe, *Aſteria* will alwayes have the ſame eſteem for you as the Slave of *Paleologus* had, and ſhe is already ſufficiently indebted to you not any longer to conceal from you, that you have had as great a ſhare in her tears, as the effects of that fortune which has authoriz'd the ſhedding of them, as the deaths, the Priſons, and the ruin of a glorious Empire have ſometimes given to other remembrances; and I confeſs, that even in this moment I am now ſpeaking to you, all my ſorrow is removed by the joy of my finding you according to my deſires. I ſhould be ungrateful

ngrateful, cryed the Prince, if I would not sacrifice my whole life to estify my acknowledgements of your favours, and indeed what is here I ought not do to render my elf worthy of the glorious esteem of my Princess! I am convinced you deserve more, pursued *Asteria*, and the kindness I have for you is no less redevable to your merit then your services; but, Seignior, how different is our destiny at *Samarcanda* from what it was at *Constantinople*, every thing went opposite to the desires of *Andronicus*, and here all things contribute to those of *Themir*; the Emperour bears him out in hiscruelty; the People applaud his crimes; and I have nothing but my hatred to stand by me. You make nothing then of my Love, pursu'ed the Prince, do you think that shall be idle whilst *Themir* is so active? Pray, Madam, judg more kindly of it, it cannot be either weak or fearful, since it is

inspired

inſpired by you and the zeal of it will not ſuffer any thing to be difficult, to give you a diſcovery of its ardour, yes, Madam, whilſt I injoy my life, I will be an invincible obſtacle to the vows and proteſtations of *Themir*; I know very well there's no way in the World which he will not attempt to take it from me; but if the *Tartars* fear him, without vanity I may ſay they love me; the Emperour may in little time be leſs blind, and more reaſonable, and with ſome help poſſibly I may e're long preſent to my Princeſs a more happy condition, then that I am as yet conſtrained to ſee her languiſh in. This hope has no proſpect of likelyhood in it, replied *Aſteria*, and how favourable ſoever *Tamberlain* may be to you when thoſe changes ſhall come upon him, as you fancy; yet he will never be favourable enough to give the preference of *Themir*: and then what deſigns will not your Brother contrive

rive against your life? He is cruel, mbitious, violent, and what is nore, *Adanaxus*, he is jealous, he knows that we have formerly been cquainted, though by what means, it nas yet been impossible for me to earn. But I will assure you since my Father's death he hath given me such Intimations of it, as I've but too plainly understood. Fear nothing from it, Madam, answered the Prince of *Tanaïs*, I am no longer that weak and diffident *Adanaxus*, whom the dominering carriage of an elder Brother did formerly send away from *Samarcanda*, I am now a passionate Lover, that will defend what he adores against all the attacks of an insulting and audacious Rival, I will firmly maintain by my courage the glorious ambition of deserving you; and when it shall be imploy'd for that honour there is not any danger that can shock the resolution of *Adanaxus*.

The Prince would have held the

converſation longer, but that *Aſteria*, who was fearful of being ſurpriſed intreated him to retire, but not without a mutual promiſe of loving one another, in ſpight of all the oppoſitions that might combat with their paſſion. *Adanaxus* ſpent the reſt of the night in a joy he had never before reſented: Nothing more could be deſired from *Aſteria*, and if *Themir* did prove his perſecution, the trouble was not weighty enough to ballance the pleaſure he had in thinking how tender he was in the affections of his Princeſs: but whilſt he was thus diverting himſelf with the pleaſantneſs of his thoughts, his deſtiny was cruelly preparing for him new traverſes.

Themir now no longer doubted *Adanaxus* being his Rival, both what *Odmar* had drawn from ſome of his own Servants, and the other Circumſtances in *Bajazet*'s Priſon, made it clear to him; but ſtill as *Odmar* was never without his ſpyes, for

for he employed I know not how many creatures for that purpoſe, he preſently heard of the interview in in the Terrace, and the two lovers who thought they had had no other witneſſes of their converſation than the Night and their love, were both ſeen and heard. *Themir* was even ready to burſt with rage at it, *Odmar* likewiſe was put into a ſtrange fury, and after a long times conſideration about what was moſt convenient to be done, the advice was that *Adanaxus* ſhould be permitted to make an attempt that might be more convincing, that ſo they may demand reaſon of the Emperour: But *Odmar*, purſued *Themir*, to what end ſhould we give him farther time, for him to do me more outrages, are not the affronts he has done me already great enough? No Seignior, added *Odmar*, all that you can do at preſent, will neither reeſtabliſh your repoſe nor the ſafety of your love: But urge the Empe-

rour to put *Asteria* into your posses-sion, since you are so desirous to be united to her. Ah, but what shall we do with *Adanaxus*, interrupted the cruel *Themïr?* What Seignior, answered *Odmar*, what other Princes do that are enraged with those things which prove their trouble, leave to me the concern of his destiny, it shall be such as shall be worthy of his boldness. Well then, pursued *Themir*, il'e rest upon your advice, and demand of the Emperour the last sureties of his love.

At these words *Themir* went to find out *Tamberlain*, but as he was coming into the Terrace where the Prince of *Tanais* had entertained *Asteria*, he perceived him at the other end of it, the sight of *Adanaxus*, and the place where he thought he had so lately met with a very sensible outrage inflamed his fury; he strait forgot *Odmar's* advice, and fancying his Brother was only walking there to see the Princess, he made up to

him

him with a precipitation that argued his impatience : The young Prince very prudently ſhunned him, perceiving his rage ; But *Themir* obſerving it ; Stay, ſaid he to him, and give me an account of the reaſons that make you look after my Captive, and of thoſe ſecret plots you have laid to night againſt me. Speak with more reſpect of ſo great a Princeſs, as you think worthy to be made your Spouſe, replyed *Adanaxus*, looking upon him very fiercely, and conſider that you demand a ſatisfaction from a man that owes you none, and who is not now in a humour to give you any. What, cryed *Themir*, do you think to brave me after you have offended me, or do you imagine that my reſentment will ſpare you ? I have ſuffered ſo much from your pride, purſued *Adanaxus*, as I am reſolved to bear with it no longer : who has given you the priviledge of commanding

a perſon over whom you have no other advantage than what the name of Elder Brother affords you, that you think to make your ſelf his Maſter or Emperour? I ought not to give you an account any otherways than in ſacrificing you to my vengeance, interrupted *Themir*, putting his hand upon his ſword, and I owe my ſelf that ſacrifice upon too many reaſons: A very weighty blow was the conſequence of *Themir*'s words, which hit upon *Adanaxus's* ſhoulder, who avoiding the ſecond, put himſelf into a poſture of defence and would have done it in ſuch a manner as would have been fatal to *Themir*, if *Axalla* with ſome other *Tartars* of quality, brought thither by the noiſe they made, had not come and flung themſelves between them. *Themir* was ſo baſe as to ſtrike the Prince of *Tanaïs* in the arms of thoſe that held him, but ſeeing it was impoſſible for him to ſatisfie his revenge; Your indiſcreet zeal deprives my reſent-

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ments of a victim I am going now to demand of the Emperour, said he to those that kept him off from the Prince. Away he went as soon as he had spoke these words, and *Adanaxus* continuing the discourse, You will not, pnrsued he, let him come before the Emperour, without giving me the liberty of going to defend my self? We will follow you thither if you please, Seignior, replied *Axalla*: Let us go then, continued the Prince, who came to *Tamberlain* almost as soon as *Themir*. Immediately the Emperour cast his eyes upon the blood that ran from the wounds of the young Prince, and he was not so little in his affections, as to behold it without a trouble: what blood is that which runs down your cloaths, *Adanaxus*, said he to him, It is mine, answered the Prince of *Tanaïs* very modestly: From whom comes this, pursued the Emperour, with looks that sufficiently denoted the passion he was in? Is

there any in *Samareanda* that dares lift up his hand againſt you? Yes, Seignior, interrupted the violent *Themir*, there are thoſe that would give him death if you did not hinder them, and in it give him that puniſhment he deſerves, in affronting me with ſo much boldneſs as he has done: I have a thouſand things to accuſe him, he has done me ſecret offences, and when I would have had him given me an account why he did ſo, with ſcorn he anſwered me. As for my diſcourſe, ſaid *Adanaxus*, it has been a great deal more moderate than it ought, and as for my action, I believe I could defend a life; for which the Emperour ſtill reſerves ſome kindneſs.

Tamberlain then knew with an exceſs of grief, that his Sons found it difficult to vanquiſh that violent antipathy which had diſunited them, ſince that ſix years abſence had not wrought any change upon them. Though he did in his heart condemn

Themir,

Themir, and render juſtice to the diſcretion of *Adanaxus*, yet he had ſuch a tender love for the former, as to ſacrifice all his equity to him, and deſiring to reconcile them, Heaven, ſaid he to them, ſurely has not brought you together, to engage you in new quarrels, which are ſo hateful to it: Shall I never ſee you in that happy ſtate of friendſhip, which would render your lives and my repoſe pleaſant to me? ſhall it be in a continual uneaſineſs by your diviſions? *Adanaxus*, ſaid he to the young Prince, do ſomething to pleaſe me, teſtifie to *Themir* that you are ſorry for the outrage you have done him: And, you purſued he, addreſſing himſelf to the other, receive the ſubmiſſion of your Brother as becomes you: No Seignior, interrupted *Themir*, juſt as *Adanaxus*, who had reſolved to ſacrifice his reſentment to the commands of the Emperour, was going to obey him; I will not pardon him,

but let him know by the vengeance you owe me, that he is not to go unpuniſhed who will dare to offend him that has the advantage of being your eldeſt Son. Whatever diſpoſitions the Emperour of the *Tartars* had to favour *Themir*, yet this violent procedure was very diſpleaſing to him: You may be ſure I would puniſh *Adanaxus* if he were criminal, replied he, but I do not ſee he is ſo, for having defended a life which you aſſaulted, without conſidering that he is my Son as well as you, and if the priviledge of birth has given you ſome advantages, that ought not to make any difference between you in my breaſt, do not you give me the diſquiet of ſeeing you rebellious to my will: Submit your ſelf to it Prince, ſince I command it you. I muſt acknowledge my trouble, Seignior, in that I cannot be ſo obedient as I ought, purſued *Themir*, but the crime of *Adanaxus* then will have very ſtrange con-

consequences: you ow to my repose and possibly to my life what I now demand of you: and since you refuse it me I find that I am less happy than I thought my self to be, and that my loss would not be very considerable to you. He went out at those words, and *Tamberlain* who loved him more dearly than all the world, (though he learn'd the truth of what had passed from other faithful persons and from *Axalla*, in whom he repos'd his greatest confidence.) commanded *Adanaxus* to do what he could to get the friendship of his Brother. If *Asteria* be grateful, added he, you have a sure way to appease the resentment of the cruel *Themir*, *Bajazet* is no longer in a condition to impose any laws upon her, intercede for your Brother, and do your endeavours to overcome an unjust aversion: She ought to esteem you and credit you, after what you have done for her, and if you can incline her to be favourable to *Themir*,

you will engage him to your friendſhip and to clemency, and you will procure me a repoſe, which it is impoſſible for me to injoy, ſo long as you are diſunited.

The Prince of *Tanais* found in himſelf no diſpoſition to give him that obedience he deſired: There were within him ſuch obſtacles againſt it as were not to be vanquiſhed, and perceiving the Emperour fix'd upon the happineſs of *Themir*, he went away from him, reſolving rather to periſh, than to ſee *Neris* in the power of a Rival, and of ſuch a one whom ſhe mortally hated.

But whilſt by the diligence and care of *Axalla*, who waited on him, the Chirurgeons applied their remedies to his wounds, *Themir* was only breathing out revenge: how he might deſtroy *Adanaxus* was the only thing he had been employed about ſince he had left the Emperour, and he was no leſs ſtudious how he might facrifice his brother to his implacable

placable hatred, than to poſſeſs himſelf of *Aſteria* in ſpight of all right or reaſon. *Tamberlain* had put a kind of equality betwixt them, which made him almoſt mad, and in the fury he was then in, not *Tamberlain* himſelf was ſecure from the horror of his deſigns, he forgot that his Father had ever had any blameable weakneſſes for any beſides himſelf, and whatſoever he had done like an unjuſt man or like one enraged, was a pure effect of his blind paſſion, the Prince of *Tanaïs* had offended him and went unpuniſhed, he could not digeſt the outrage, and it was in the Arms of his dear *Odmar*, that he went to ſeek out his cruel conſolations. I am betrayed, *Odmar*, ſaid he to him; *Adanaxus* triumphs over the weakneſs of the Emperour, and he is ceaſed to be what heretofore he was. I thought it was ſufficient to make my complaints, to have my revenge granted, and that *Tamberlain* would have abandoned

bandoned that Rival to the safety of my repose. But I am the Victim on the account of love, and if I give him time to gain upon that Spirit which is already wavering betwixt us, I may also be the victim on that of nature. But *Odmar*, he must perish, it must be all his blood that must satisfie my despair, and assure my pretensions. Well, Seignior, he shall perish, interrupted *Odmar*, with that fury that ordinarily follows the resolution of great crimes, and we will sacrifice to your repose a victim that is so much your due: Let us have an ungrateful captive, and if it be necessary let us carry your revenge even to *Tamberlain*; do you dissemble and leave to me the care of managing the rest. *Adanaxus* must needs fall under the designs that I have laid, and that love which so much crosses yours, must be the occasion of his ruine. I will cause him to be suspected by the Emperour for making an attempt upon his

Throne

Throne and upon his Life, and invelop him in the horrors of a crime of which I ſhall not find it difficult to contrive ſufficient probabilities. *Tamberlain* is jealous of his glory, and of the Soveraign Authority. *Adanaxus* ſhall dye hated by his father; his Ruine ſhall appear legitimate, you ſhall enjoy the tranquillity that that can procure you; and if the Emperour by an unheard of inconſtancy, protects him and abandons you, you ſhall then break out, the revolt will be permitted you, and it may be ſomething more. But Prince, purſued *Odmar*, perceiving *Themir* to grow pale, you change colour what makes you to deſpair, does nature ſtill ſeem to work in you? Ah! think that *Adanaxus* is beloved by the ungrateful *Aſteria*, and that he may yet uſurp the power and influence you have got over the Emperour's mind, to ſtir you up to a revenge that is legitimate.

Theſe fatal counſels which flatter-

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ed *Themir*'s fury, began to work a calm upon his ſpirit, he reſolved to feign obedience to the commands of *Tamberlain*, whilſt *Odmar* was laying his deſigns, and the Emperour at laſt taking that diſſimulation for a ſincere return, forgat the diſquiets that their enmity had raiſed in him.

But whilſt *Themir*, whoſe jealouſie ſtill kept up his cruel humour, hid his bloody intentions under indifferent appearances, the Princeſs *Aſteria* had ſome ſecret fore-notices of it. She was not ignorant of what the unmercifull Prince was capable, and when *Odmar* was labouring the performance of his horrible deſigns, ſhe trembled for the Prince whom they threatned. At firſt the joy of finding *Adanaxus* faithful again was reſented without having any thing to trouble it, but repreſenting to her ſelf to what perils his love expoſed him; Alas! ſaid ſhe, if the Prince of *Tanais* came back to *Samarcanda*,

but

but to serve as a Victime to the cruelties of *Themir*, wherefore has he justifyed himself? I was not any whit concerned in his life, so long as I doubted his heart; but he is innocent, and now my tenderness makes me sensible of all that interesses him, Ah! *Themir*, spare his blood, if you have any consideration for my life, or at least compleat all thy crimes by the death of *Asteria*.

The Princess made not these complaints upon light and trivial conjectures, *Themir* was not reserv'd enough punctually to observe the silence that *Odmar* imposed upon him; and being transported by his choler, when he was with the Princess, he gave her by his threatning very great suspicions of some bloody enterprise.

Time made his intentions break forth, *Odmar* gave out such orders as were very faithfully executed, and they laboured night and day to make

make the Prince ſuſpected by the Emperour. The weakneſs he had for *Themir*, was not the only one of which he was capable; whatſoever concerned his authority, was very afflicting to him, and he was jealous of it after an extraordinary manner. *Odmar* had found ſome perſons, whom the hopes of raiſing their fortunes had made his creatures, and cauſed ſeveral hints to be given to *Tamberlain*, which all agreed in the main, yet they came from different perſons. His quality of being Governour to *Themir* and thoſe places of eminence he was in, made him greatly honoured among the *Tartars*, and having ſpent his whole life in Cabals, and by a tedious conſultation thought upon all things that made to his advantage, and was pleaſing to him, it was not difficult for him to hit upon ſuch treaſons as he had contrived againſt him, and to gain perſons of the ſame conſtitutions and temper as he was: at laſt

laſt by his wicked and malicious orders, the firſt thing that ſhocked *Tamberlain*'s ſpirit, and that ſubmitted reaſon and truth to the weakneſs of fear, was a perſon's telling him that *Adanaxus* had held very blamable correſpondencies with *Bajazet*: Which was preſently backed with anothers acquainting him, that being moſt paſſionately in love with his Daughter, he had returned to *Samarcanda* only to quit him from his fetters; that he had ſeveral times made an attempt upon the fidelity of the *Ottoman* Prince's Guards to procure his eſcape; that he ſided with his Sons, in the deſign of coming to ſeek their revenge of him; that to that purpoſe he held ſecret Intelligences with the *Tartars*, and that an Inteſtine War joyned to the former fury of the *Turks* rallied by *Bajazet*'s Sons, might produce very great changes in his Empire. To theſe falſe conjectures were added the reaſons

reasons of *Adanaxus*'s extraordinary Rhetorick and earnestness to save *Bajazet* from his deserved punishment, and of his care and pains to render the irksomeness of his prison as pleasant to him as he could: besides they refreshed the Emperours memory with the excess of grief the Prince had discovered at *Bajazet*'s death; his private conference in the night on the terrace with *Asteria*, the difference that had been between him and *Themir*, and in a word all things that might put an evil interpretation upon the actions of the innocent Prince of *Tanais*. *Tamberlain*, who upon the like occasion would have lost all affections for *Themir*, presently emptyed his breast of all for *Adanaxus*, and not being capable of examining any thing, he ordered that *Odmar* should be found out, to whom he told all that this treacherous base man knew a great deal better then himself; and after a great many threats;

threats, the cruel *Tartar* vehemently uttered against the young Prince, he commanded him to go and secure *Adanaxus*'s person, and to carry him to the Tower of *Samarcanda*. Pardon me, Seignior, answered the dissembling *Odmar*, if I beg of you not to lay this command upon me, how criminal soever the Prince of *Tanaïs* is, he is the Emperours Son, and the Brother of an illustrious Prince, whom I have had the honour to bring up; and I don't find my self powerful enough to go and be the pronouncer of his misfortune. I have a horror for his wicked designs, as I have pitty for his Youth. You are his Father, Seignior, use some indeavours upon that occasion and try your utmost efforts to moderate your resentments, the perfidious wretch spoke after this manner, being very well perswaded that *Tamberlain* was too deeply prepossessed with his fear to hearken to him. What *Odmar*, said he

he to him, do you adviſe me to a Indulgence which will it may b both coſt me my Empire and m life? Your pitty is unjuſt, and cannot too ſeverely puniſh the am bitious *Adanaxus*: but yet I wil not conſtrain you; but *Calib*, con tinued he, perceiving the Captai of his Guards coming in, ſhall be charged with the Commiſſions that you refuſe. In ſhort, he appointed *Calib*, who being much about the ſame humour with *Odmar*, went preſently to the apartment of the Prince of *Tanais* with a conſidera ble Number of the Emperour's Guards.

He was alone when *Calib* came in, for *Axalla* had juſt before left him; his love, his juſtification, and his quarrel with *Themir* was for ſeveral hours the Subjects of their diſcourſe; and he was ſtill reflecting upon what they had ſaid, when he per ceived *Calib* coming in, what would you have, ſaid the Prince to him, not very

ery well knowing him? Your word, Seignior, replied *Calib*, which the Emperour commands you to put into my hands, and to go along with me to the Tower of *Samarcanda*: As I had never been wont to receive the honour of any visits from *Calib*, answer'd *Adanaxis*, I thought at first he only came hither to make me some extraordinary complements, shall I not see the Emperour continued he, and will you tell me nothing of my crime? I have no further orders, Seignior, replied *Calib*, then to conduct you to the Tower: and for the satisfaction you desire of me, I must confess, I was never made a Confident of the secrets of my Master. You act discreetly, replied the Prince; here *Calib*, take the Sword that you demand of me, the name of the Emperour shall make me at any time render my arms; let us go to the Tower you are to conduct me to; if I ever do come out of it, I will

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not forget that you were my guid thither, and beſides will be mind ful of your diſcretion. *Calib* re turned him no anſwer, becauſe tha *Adanaxus* juſt then went out. The were to croſs the great terrace to g into one of the Courts of th Palace where the Charriot waite that was to carry him. *Aſteria* wa leaning at her Chamber-Window and thinking on the Prince of *Tana ïs*, juſt as he ſaw him in the midſt of *Tamberlain's* Guards without his Sword, though ſhe had been fancying him a thouſand times in that poſture before then, yet was not her ſurpriſe leſs great; ſhe gave a horrible ſhriek, which obliged the Prince to caſt his eyes that way, and he had no ſooner done ſo, but he perceived her ſinking into the arms of *Xaira*. The news of his misfortune would have been a great deal leſs dreadful to her then this accident proved: He uſed all his Oratory to perſwade *Calib* to per-

mit

it him the favour of going to his rinceſs; but whether through fear r crueltie, the *Tartar* would not onſent to it: but he was obliged o go to the Tower without any ore delay, where he was ſhut up. s ſoon as he was come thither, they ook care to redouble *Aſteria*'s Guards; and beſides the affliction he was in, to know that her ſervant vas become a Priſoner, ſhe was de-rived of the conſolation of having aily intelligence from him, being fforded no other company but that f *Themir*'s of all the Servants ſhe ad at *Samarcanda*.

The Prince of *Tanaïs* his being arried to priſon occaſioned a very conſiderable noiſe in *Tamberlain*'s Court; he was generally beloved, nd his deſtiny was in a high degree amented, and amongſt the moſt grave and ſober ſort of perſons, there were but few of them who would not with all their Souls have done his vertue juſtice: But there was nothing

nothing to be done in his favour: the zeal of his friends was now unprofitable to him, and againſt both the commands and the pleaſure of the Emperor, the generous *Axalla*, as being the moſt perſwaded of *Adanaxus*'s innocence, became the moſt ſenſible of his misfortune: he ſaw no likelyhood of undeceiving a weak Father, ſo great a Lover of his fortune, and prevented by Impoſtors, who too well knew his humours and his fears, and had managed their buſineſs with a great deal of prudence and ſafety; but however he went to ſee the Emperor and to ſpeak to him concerning the Prince, but he was preſently commanded ſilence; and judging that he might indanger himſelf to be ſuſpected, and conſequently to loſe his liberty, if he ſpake any more to a Man, who by his tranſport had made himſelf uncapable of underſtanding reaſon, he retired with an extream regret but as he did

not

not so much fear his disgrace any otherwise then as it might give him an absolute defeat from being any longer in a condition of serving *Adanaxus*, he made it his business to gain over to him the gallantest persons of the Court, that he likewise might have a party to speak in the favour of *Adanaxus*, and labour his justification, and try if they could not in time melt down *Tamberlain*'s heart into some tenderness for his captiv'd Son.

In the mean time *Themir* was triumphing; *Odmar*'s projects met with such successful beginnings, that he could not but expect the consequenses of them would be resembling: The Emperour would hearken to nothing but the counsels of his Rage and Error, and the ruine of the Prince of *Tanais* appearing now past all prevention unto the contrivers of it, his barbarous Brother was before hand pleasing himself with the agreeable thoughts of it;

and his hopes buoying him up, with such a delightful flattery, he went directly to *Asteria*, whom he found in a condition conformable to her grief. But in spight of all her tears and heavineſs, (more charming then ever yet ſhe had appeared to the ſight of *Themir*) her eyes, which an extraordinary paleneſs rendered languiſhing, were notwithſtanding full of a Majeſtick choler; ſhe was then ſitting upon a Couch, and without ever riſing off it, ſhe thus addreſt her diſcourſe: Are you come, ſaid ſhe to him, to make your boaſt that you have reduced *Adanaxus* to a Priſon, as a new inſtance of you crueltie? Is he only guilty becauſe he has with pitty reſented the unhappineſſes of *Bajazet*? And as this compaſſion obliges me to have a reſembling intereſt for him, ſhould you have proved falſe to you furious tranſports upon my conſideration, if you had ſpared him? I ought to have done

done that which you reproach me for, answered the unjust Prince of *Tartary*, and this Rival sufficiently deserves my hatred, since I ow your aversion to him. You only ow it to your crimes, interrupted *Asteria*, to those barbarous sentiments which have made you find such sweetness in the death of *Ortobulus*, in the ruine of my Mother, in the loss of *Bajazet*, in my captivity, and in a word in all your unworthy threatnings of me. Thus Madam, replied *Themir*, you impute all the events of fate to me, and I am culpable still, because *Adanaxus* conspires against the Emperour. I shall not go about to justify my self any longer to you; but fear least you do not quite exhaust my patience; such a haughty pride does not alwayes meet with submissive Souls, and since I have suffered so much from your ingratitude, I may very lawfully make use of my rights and priviledges. I understand your mena-

ces, purſued the Princeſs; but ſince I have nothing more to fear for *Bajazet*, they have not the power to frighten me: conſider. Heaven ſometimes puts bounds to its anger, it is not alwayes deaf to the prayers of the unfortunate and miſerable, but does reſerve ſtill its thunders for the puniſhments of Tyrants. You ought then to make a Tryal, anſwered *Themir*, how far one may go without its ſuccour and to begin to make a more profitable uſe of my Authority. I confeſs I am tyred out with thoſe tedious and ſervile reſpects I have paid you, and in a ſhort time, you ſhall either conſent to my deſires, or elſe not be in a condition to bring any obſtacle to them. He went away as he ended thoſe words; and though they had ſtruck a terror into the Princeſſes ſoul, yet it was no ſmall relief to her to ſee the *Barbarian* go out of her room, and leave her the liberty of finding conſolations in her conſtancy

againſt all the affiictions ſhe was o'rewhelm'd with.

Axalla, and his friends did inceſſantly labour to put a ſtop to the moſt preſſing of them, they examined with all the care they could, when were thoſe moments that the Emperour found in his breaſt any return of tenderneſs for his young Son, at laſt they began to find him in a humour to hearken to what might be ſaid in his favour, then it was they conjured him to make a ſolid reflection upon *Adanaxus*'s carriage, and what ſeverity ſoever he reſolv'd to uſe againſt him, he could not find any of his actions blameable, and deſerving condemnation: his moderation in the unworthy treatments of *Themir*, his ſubmiſſion to the commands of the Emperour, and particularly to the laſt he had received from him, coming again into his memory, he began to fear he had acted with too much precipitation; and reproaching himſelf for

it as a default of paternal love, he perceived himself in one of those inquietudes which ordinarily do usher in a deep repentance. He was as soon come to himself as he had been provoked, being incapable of himself to be carried out to any great violences, but subject to a credulity which made him often take Chimera's for truths, and the wicked and poisonous counsels of flatterers for a sincere zeal. These kind of humours almost continually go from one extremity to the other, *Tamberlain* past from that so favourably for the Prince of *Tanaïs*, that he could not take any comfort in his being so much inraged against him. I have been too cruel said he in those reflections, to condemn *Adanaxus* upon discourses which I've not given him time to oppose and answer: Those accusers, may not they be deceived in what they charge him with, and is his justification impossible? Weak

Prince

Prince, continued he, ſearch into the procedures of your Son with more mildneſs and tranquillity; what, would you ſacrifice him to your fears, and poſſibly to your errors? Conſider that a Prince elevated upon the Throne of *Aſia* ought to prevent accidents with a greater moderation; have you ſeen *Adanaxus* in the troops of *Bajazet* during that abſcence which has deprived you of him? Has fame, that publiſhes all things, ever told you any thing of him that you have need to complain of? and in the extremity to which *Bajazet* was reduced when *Adanaxus* arrived at *Samarcanda*, can you find any probability that his return was deſign'd by the *Ottoman* Prince, or by his daughter? He ſaw him not but by thy orders, and did not obtain his life but by arguments very advantageous to thy glory, and which it was impoſſible for thee not to yield to. Thoſe very arguments which

have convinced me, become now thy crimes, thou wouldſt make him ſuffer puniſhment for having perſwaded thee to be generous. No *Tamberlain*, do not thou become the talk or rather the horrour of the world by ſuch an action, but ſeek the innocency of thy Son and not his ruine, and if he be deeply ſmitten with the charms of that beauty, ſo fatal to the repoſe of thy blood, content thy ſelf in bringing deſpair to his affection by giving that *Aſteria* to *Themir*.

This change of the Emperour was ſoon obſerved, by the friends and perſecutors of the Prince of *Tanaïs*: *Odmar* was quite enraged at it, and did not doubt but that the love and care of *Axalla* did much contribute to it, he would with all his ſoul have deſtroyed him with *Adanaxus*, but how ruinouſly ingenious his envy and revenge were, it could do nothing againſt *Axalla's* glory, and he was obliged to confine his rage only,

only in ſeeking out ways he thought might be moſt fit and proper to counterplot him, in hindering the juſtification of *Adanaxus*.

In the mean time *Tamberlain* came more and more to himſelf, and was conſidering among all thoſe that were about him, who ſhould be the man he had beſt pitch upon to be ſent to examine the Prince of *Tanais*, and from his mouth to be informed when and how he got his acquaintance with *Bajazet* and *Aſteria*: after a great deal of balancing upon the election, he concluded that *Talmis* ſhould be the man, one who was of a conſiderable eminence about him, he was endowed with a great deal of wit and honeſty, *Tamberlain* knew *Adanaxus* had a high eſteem and ſervice for him, and *Talmis* appearing more fit than any other to take upon him ſuch an office, and to diſcharge it with honour, received the commands of the Emperour, and performed them with as

much justice as zeal. He went to the young Prince, and addressing himself with all that respect which was due to the Son of the Emperour, he humbly beseeched him not to take it ill, if he propounded some questions to him that he had in commission from his Father. *Adanaxus* satisfied with his submission, frankly told him all he had before acquainted *Axalla* with, and afterwards his surprise, when at the death of *Bajazet* he knew his *Asteria* again for *Neris*: *Talmis* being informed of the truth, made a very faithful recital of all the circumstances to the Emperour, and fortified them with arguments that were so powerful for the innocence of the Prince, that *Tamberlain* was more than half perswaded of them, but yet he thought it prudence to see whether the Princess and *Adanaxus* would be found in the same story. He went to her Apartment early the next morning, and after he had excused himself for

the unseasonableness of the hour he had chosen; Madam, said he to her, I am not of right to flatter my self with the thoughts of obtaining any grace from you, yet I am come to demand one of you, upon which all my tranquillity does depend. The Princess thought that *Tamberlain* was come again to be sollicitous for *Themir*, and therefore looking on him very stedfastly, It is not likely in good earnest, replied she, you should effect a thing that the death of *Bajazet* has not been able to make me resolve upon. 'Tis not that now which brings me to you, pursued the Emperour, I only am come to demand of you how *Adanaxus* began his acquaintance with you, what correspondence *Bajazet* had with him, and what intelligences he may still have with your Brothers; and I swear to you, that were he convicted of a thousand designs either upon my Empire or my life, *Adanaxus* should find his pardon from your

your confeſſion, and that I will ſacrifice my moſt juſt reſentments to your ſincerity. Though the Princeſs could not much believe *Tamberlain*'s diſcourſe, yet becauſe ſhe had nothing to hazard in telling him the truth, ſhe made him the very ſame relation as the Prince had done before to *Talmis*: but indeed if ſhe did paſs over her tender affections to him, it was eaſily diſcoverable, that ſhe did it through modeſty. It is ſufficient Madam, ſaid the Emperour to her when ſhe had done ſpeaking; I will keep my word with you, and ſet *Adanaxus*'s Priſon wide open to you. You will do him juſtice, anſwered *Aſteria*, and his innocence is manifeſt enough to oblige you to reſtore him his liberty.

Theſe ſtories agreeing together wrought a calm upon a great part of *Tamberlain*'s troubles, the ſincerity of the Princeſs he himſelf diſcovered; *Talmis* was no way ſuſpected by him, and nothing now remained but only

only to confound the accusers of *Adanaxus*, the Emperour was just going to send for them when he saw *Odmar* coming up to him: The feigned compassion he shewed for the unhappiness of the Prince of *Tanais*, made *Tamberlain* believe he would receive abundance of joy at the appearances of his justification. *Odmar*, said he to him, the pity you have testified for my Son, and which I condemned in you was just: all things perswade me that he is not guilty, and you have appeared so sensible of his misfortune, that you cannot but receive as great a satisfaction to learn the happy success of it. This was a thunderclap that made the perfidious *Odmar* think it would have struck him dead upon the spot, but as he was the best man in the world to manage a dissimulation, he concealed his trouble and confessed that he was overjoyed at this resolution. He asked the Emperour whence it proceeded, and by what means he

he came to be informed of the Prince's innocence. *Tamberlain* with all the obliging civility imaginable, gave him an exact account of it, and continuing to entertain him with the same confidence; It is necessary, added he, that those who have been the cause of *Adanaxus*'s disgrace, should be examined before him, and that their punishment should revenge his glory, if he was not found guilty of any crime; make them to be sought out *Odmar*, they are known to you, and I my self will examine the source and progress of this calumny. Seignior, answered *Odmar*, so hasty a procedure will go near to exasperate them, therefore let us manage the business with more secrecy, and if you please to take my advice, do not discover your thoughts, one word is enough to allarm them, and their flight will defeat you of the revenge you may take, it will be hard for me to get them together, and bring them here upon

upon other pretences, give me only time to bring this to paſs, and in the mean while conſerve againſt the Prince *Adanaxus*, all the appearances of your firſt anger. This precaution ſeemed reaſonable to the Emperour, he embraced *Odmar*, and entruſting him with the conduct of this affair, he put a ſtop to the diſcovery he ſo much deſired.

As ſoon as *Odmar* was gone from him, he gave his rage the full ſwinge, and after he had examined whatſoever might put things into diſorder again, and make the accuſations ſeem probable, he ſaw every way ſo many things to confound him, and ſo little ſecurity, that he thought he could not do better than to ſend away the informers. As they had done nothing without his orders, he immediately took this precaution, and ſent them from *Samarcanda* the ſame night, and having given them time enough to advance their flight, he went to find out the Emperour,

perour, with a grief and perplexity in his face so admirably counterfeited that it appeared natural. I saw sufficiently, Seignior, said he to him, that there was but one word necessary to render your intentions publick, and to counterplot your absolute satisfaction: I have been in vain looking out for those whom I was charg'd to bring before you: they are fled, so that none of them are to be found in *Samarcanda*. Well then, answered the Emperour, this flight does fully convince me of the innocence of *Adanaxus*. If he had been guilty, his enemies would have stayed without ever fearing any thing of the event of this business: Yet *Odmar*, we had best send so many in pursuance after them, that we may from some of them hear what is become of those fugitives. Yes, Seignior, answered the faithless *Tartar*, that is but requisite, and that I will labour with all the care I can. In short, he sent out several

persons,

persons, but he knew very well which way to send them so that they should never be the wiser: But yet all this could not be managed without some noise: the friends of the Prince of *Tanaïs* had great resentments of joy at it, and *Axalla*, who only was cautious of himself upon the consideration of *Adanaxus*, saw now that it was time to complete his happiness, and addressed himself to the Emperour to sollicite him for it: The Emperour presently yielded, and commanded him to go to the Tower, and bring the Prince from it: This was a very pleasing order to a person who had so tender a passion for him as *Axalla* had; he accepted of it with transport, and after he had continued with the Emperour a little while longer, to take away the reliques of his inquietude, he ran with the resembling fury of a Lover to his dear *Adanaxus*. Though the Prince could not expect any thing that might be fatal from

Axalla,

Axalla, yet he had a thouſand diſmal Idea's in his fancy when he ſaw him: Muſt I then dye, my dear *Axalla*, ſaid he to him embracing him, and are you come to be a companion of my misfortune? No Seignior, anſwered *Axalla*, I come to reſtore you liberty, which only your virtue and the juſtice of the Emperour has given you. He then acquainted him with the change of his condition, the weak effort his enemies had made againſt him, and the Prince uncertain of the conſequences which that might occaſion, appeared unſhaken, he went towards the Palace, informing himſelf by the way of *Aſteria*, and he had the joy to know by the acclamations of the people, that they had been as ſenſible of his impriſonment, as they were of his liberty.

When he came up to the Emperour he threw himſelf at his feet, which action made him bluſh through confuſion, as it did alſo cauſe

cauſe him to ſigh through repentance. *Adanaxus*, ſaid he to him, after he had done embracing him, I have not done any thing againſt you which I am not reſolved to repair, and as I no longer doubt but that the crimes you have been accuſed of are only forged, ſo I would already have revenged you of thoſe who were the inventers of them, if they were not got out of the reach of my anger: To be plain with you, I am ſufficiently ſenſible of your innocence, for it I have believed my tender affections to you, and you are alſo redevable for one part of your juſtification to the Princeſs *Aſteria*. You have the freedom to go and pay her your acknowledgments for it, and judge of the return of my friendſhip, by this firſt effect of my indulgence. *Adanaxus* bluſhed to hear his Princeſs named; and it was not difficult for *Tamberlain* to interpret the emotion; but after he had learn'd from the Prince's mouth,

the

the ſame things that *Talmis* had reported to him; You have a Rival in *Themir*, ſaid he to him, whoſe pretenſions are ſtrengthned upon my promiſes, and whom I cannot deny my protection againſt your flame, though I know that you have the advantage of a longer ſervice, as well as of the gratitude of the Princeſs: But *Adanaxus*, is it not poſſible to conquer your ſelf, and by a generous effort——Seignior, cryed the Prince, if I were unfaithful to *Aſteria*, I could become ſo to you: He that can prove a Traitor to his love will never have any great conſiderations for nature, and I ſhould render my ſelf worthy of your Chains, if I were capable of doing the leaſt effort to break thoſe of the Princeſs.

As the young Prince ended theſe words, *Themir* entred; his paleneſs expreſſed the deſpair he was in, and the looks he darted upon *Adanaxus*, ſufficiently teſtified that his Soul was

full of a thousand bloody resolutions. *Tamberlain* seemed as if he did not mind them, and asked him if he came to share in his brother's joy to which he returned no answer, and the Emperour according to his usual complaisance, not being willing to press him any farther, contented himself in giving to the Prince of *Tanaïs* the caresses that were due to him, and publickly protested that there were not any punishments which those who had unjustly accused him, ought not to expect.

As soon as *Adanaxus* had the freedom to retire, he took the benefit of that the Emperour had given him, to see *Asteria*, and the jealous looks of *Themir* were not powerful enough to prevent him from it. It would be very hard to tell, which of the two were the most sensible of the pleasure they resented in seeing one another again: Silence and sighs are the first marks of those kind of joys, and there is more said in an amorous

morous trouble and confusion, tha
in a set and orderly discourse. Oh
how eloquent were the eyes of *A-*
danaxus then, and how attentive
were those of the Princess to hearke
to them? As he entred he flung him
self at her feet, and after he had
been there a good while, without
her having the least power to make
him rise, at last, Madam, said he to
her, the great mystery of my love is
known to the Emperour, this know-
ledge has not hindered my liberty,
and I am come to pay you my ac-
knowledgements for having procu-
red it me. What an honourable sa-
tisfaction is it to me to see my self
prostrate at your feet, and not to
ow it to any thing but your self.
You ow me nothing for having
done justice to a truth which was
profitable to you, interrupted the
Princess, and though I should not
have this testimony to your services,
my heart would have compelled me
to render it you. Is it possible for

me

me to forget, without the laſt ingratitude, that you have been prodigal of your blood for *Neris*, treated a wretched Unknown like a Princeſs, run through Seas and Land to ſeek me out, and have done ſo many generous ſervices for the unfortunate *Bajazet*? You ſet too high a value upon thoſe that are ſo little deſerving, replied *Adanaxus*, but as for me my Princeſs, what do I not ow you, to ſuffer at your feet the Son of *Tamberlain* and the Brother of *Themir*? I do not confound the vices of *Themir* with your vertues, replied *Aſteria*, nor your ſervices with the outrages that have been done me; and if I do hate your Brother as one that is worthy of my averſion, I love you, Seignior, becauſe you deſerve to be beloved, and becauſe *Bajazet* has not impoſed upon me ſuch laws as are contrary to the ſentiments of my breaſt. You ſee now my fears were but too well grounded, and you ought not to doubt but that

the misfortune you have escaped was a design of the Prince of *Tartary*, for the future take more precautions against him, let the Emperour know it was *Themir* that would have ruined you. Alas Madam, answer'd the Prince, the Empire that my Brother has over the mind of *Tamberlain* makes your commands be extremely difficult, none can accuse him without rendring himself at the same time suspected by the Emperour, and to testifie the least suspicion against him would be to prove my own destroyer. And what will you do then pursued *Asteria*? Adore you, my Princess, interrupted *Adanaxus* with a melting fervency beyond expression, and this devotion shall be the glorious imployment of my life. Your fidelity is dear to me, replied she, but in this present occasion it is not sufficient for me, and if you love me you must think upon some way to conserve your self, and what would you do your self, Madam,

added

dded the Prince, I would replied *Asteria*, despise *Themir* unto my last breath, render by my resistance all his pretensions useless, and though I would not do it for my self, believe me I would do it for you. Ah Madam, cryed the Prince of *Tanais*: ought I to be afraid of any thing after this glorious assurance? Alas, Seignior, answered *Asteria*, this assurance as sincere as it is, can it do any thing against Irons, Prisons, Impostors, and to conclude, against all the other ways that *Themir* is able to make use of to destroy you? Can my affection render you immortal, and am I more certain of your life, because I love you? Give me the satisfaction to see you mistrust all things, and then I shall value whatever you do to put your self in a condition that may secure you from your enemies. Yes Madam, pursued *Adanaxus*, I will obey, I will be careful of my life, I will foresee, if it be possible, the designs that may be

hatched againſt me, and I will forget nothing that may make me capable of deſerving the favours of my charming Princeſs.

At the end of theſe diſcourſes, and ſome others much reſembling them, *Adanaxus*, who ſince he found that his *Neris* was *Aſteria*, had never met with an opportunity to demand of her thoſe adventures of hers that he was ignorant of; burning with an earneſt impatience of knowing them, conjured her to give him a Relation of them which ſhe preſently conſented to, and thus began her diſcourſe:

The

The History of the Princess Asteria.

WHen *Andronicus* defeated the *Turks* who were to be my guide, I was going from *Bursa* to *Sebastia* to meet my Mother, who was to pass the Winter with the Emperour; our Troops were on the side of *Thrace*, *Bajazet* had designs upon *Constantinople*, and it was not believed that in the Winter *Paleologus* his Sons, hardened by the little opposition they found, would venture to go into the lesser *Asia*; but in their way they took us; I concealed my name, not knowing into what hands I was fallen; but having learnt it was in *Andronicus's*, and afterwards understood his sentiments for me, I made

it my particular buſineſs to keep it from being known, and through the natural averſion I had for him, and the fear of ſeeing *Paleologus* approve of his Son's Love and of being the victime of a peace between the two Empires; it fell out very luckily for me that I did ſo, the Emperour of *Greece* would not authorize an alliance unknown, and in all probability unequal; which gave me a very ſenſible joy, becauſe my hatred for *Andronicus* augmented as ſoon as ever I had a ſight of you. I quickly perceived how my heart pleaded in your favour by the trouble and melancholineſs I reſented, when I beheld you render your ſubmiſſions with too much aſſiduity to the Princeſs of *Greece*: and time, and your procedure having aſſured me of your heart, I bluſh'd ſometimes to think I was the daughter of *Bajazet*, and that when I with ſcorn refuſed the vows of *Andronicus*, I hearkened with pleaſure

to those of one unknown: but that confusion produced no effects which were not favourable to you. I told you nothing of my true birth, not so much out of any mistrustfulness, as out of a certain scruple I then had: I was very desirous to know whether you had only a kindness for my person; but I did it out of policy, after you had told me yours. I was not ignorant of *Tamberlain*'s hatred to the *Ottomans*: and fearing lest your sentiments should resemble his, I made that a secret to you, the reserve of which I thought I sufficiently recompenced by my weakness for you. I began in the mean time not to be in a power to be silent to you, but had infallibly told you all, if *Andronicus* had but for some days suspended the design he had been meditating since the unhappy success of his enterprise at *Constantinople*; but he made me be carried away then when I thought least of it, and those

fellows more hardy and resolute then those of the Emperour, imbarked me in a Vessel, which in a short time brought us to a very strange and lovely House, which they were assured of. At first I accused the Emperour for this second carrying me away, but I was undeceived, when *Andronicus* reduced to his flight by the wicked success of those unfaithful enterprises of his against his Father, came to find me in the place where I had been conducted: I was fearful of all things from the violences of a desperate and furious Spirit; and therefore to inspire him with a greater respect then I thought he might have had to one unknown, I told him I was daughter to the Emperour of the *Turks*: This news appear'd to him to be much to his advantage, and he imagined that in restoring me to *Bajazet*, he might not only obtain me from him, but he might with greater facility conquer his Father's Empire,

pire, in promising to share it with me. He then acequainted me with his design, and desired me to consider of it as an effect of the passion he had to please me. You may easily believe that the hopes of returning to *Bajazet* made me resolve upon some complaisance: at last we arrived at *Bursa*, and we were received there with all the joy that could be inspired into the Emperor, and my Mother, by the return of a daughter whose loss they had bewailed: The *Grecian* Prince had very extraordinary honours passed upon him, but when he explained his Intentions to *Bajazet* and that he perceived him much averse to favour them, he fell to reproaches, and from thence to threats, which had but too bloody effects. He went in great fury from *Bursa*, and marched towards his Father's Army, which he found driven back by the valour of *Ortobulus*, who had the command of ours in the Emperor's

absence, even within sight of *Constantinople*. He made his peace by a thousand submissions, related his adventures, and seeing the *Greeks* every way weakned, he himself secreetly laboured the relieving of the *Tartars*. *Tamberlain* sollicited by *Andronicus*, and jealous of *Bajazet's* glory whom he hated, got together all the forces of *Asia*, and brought where ever he went both horror and desolation. At last this *Tamberlain* famous by our disgraces, and eminent by our misfortunes, without any pitty burnt our Cities, sacrificed our people, and reduced, by that fatal success that did attend him, a Prince who was seen ready to share almost the World, with the rest of the Princes, to that deplorable condition into which he is fallen.

Whilst these evils were happening, notwithstanding my grief I did not loose the remembrance of *Adanaxus*, nor forget the cares of infor-

disarming my self of him. I was confirmed of your absence, and was perswaded that you must needs learn who I was, I did imagine you had not gone from *Tamberlain*, but only to escape fighting with my Father, and this very thought gave me a great consolation: at last Seignior, *Bursa* was ravaged, afterwards *Sebastia*, *Themir* haled us from the Palace, and made us take this voyage to *Asia*, where we were seen to follow the Chariot of that cruel Conquerour; and which cost my Mother her life. Our captivity preceded that of *Bajazet*'s some few days, and I have often heard him say, that being overwhelmed with a mortal grief, after *Ortobulus*'s misfortune whom *Themir* had massacred before his eyes, and the loss of the last battle, having suffered his Horses to carry him up and down without any design or hope through unknown desarts. He met with a Shepherd, who was all alone by

the side of a River pleasing himself with playing some rural airs upon his Oaten pipe, the Emperor look'd upon him a long time admiring at the sweetness of his condition, and then sighing: Oh! Too happy Shepherd, said he to him, how worthy is thy state of envy, to have nothing to spend but thy dayes, which bloody ambition never crosses; *Bajazet*'s calamities will furnish you with matter for your Songs, and you may hereafter in your pittiful Numbers say, unfortunate Prince thou shalt never more see thy delightful *Sebastia*, nor thy dear *Ortabulus*. This Shepherd with the sight and words of the Emperour, offered him his little cottage, but that retreat was not very long serviceable to him. *Themir* by his inquisition for him quickly resembled his fate to that of ours. She ended this discourse with a thousand tears, which made *Adamaxus* repent that he had been the unhappy cause of them

them, and after he had imployed some time in drying them up, he left her, to teturn to the Emperor.

In the mean time *Odmar* was flattering the transports of *Themir* with the hopes of a more successful crime, and promised him the ruine of *Adanaxus* with very powerful assurances, and counsel'd him to go once more, and make his last efforts to *Asteria*. Seignior, said he to the Emperor, I've now dispensed with all that has hitherto made me support the contempts of *Asteria*, will you give me your consent to impose upon her inclinations to make me happy, for I do not think you will authorize *Adanaxus* to thwart my pretensions, and especially upon the account of *Asteria*, whom I may call my conquest, by the blood she cost me whilst he abandoned you. Indeed I have no intention to prefer *Adanaxus* to you, answer'd the Emperor, but you have your liber-

ty to satisfy your Love. But Son, are you stedfastly resolved to marry a Maid that cannot love you, who will look upon you as her Tyrant in your most pleasing moments, and become a torment to your Life. *India*, *China*, *Egypt*, *Arabia*, have Princesses, who will procure us such alliances as may be advantageous, and who are blest with charms, if Fame may be believed: You will bring to your self a more quiet happiness, and the daughter of *Bajazet* will see her folly punished by a contempt she will repent she had ever merited. No, Seignior replied *Themir*, I will have no other happiness then that I demand of you. Well then added *Tamberlain*, give her some days respite to her mourning. Seignior, interrupted *Themir*, *Asteria* will never soften by time, and it is unprofitable to throw it away. I will not prescribe you any long time, pursued the Emperor, and then you shall have all my Autho-

Authority. *Themir* complyed with the Emperor and by an affected kind of ſubmiſſion got himſelf commended for it. He preſently went to fling himſelf at the feet of *Aſteria*, and *Adanaxus* being a greater perſecution to him then his love, he ſought out *Odmar*, who adviſed him to give the Prince of *Tanaïs* the liberty of ſeeing the Princeſs for ſome few days, that ſo he may be deprived of it for ever.

Adanaxus did not trouble himſelf about forming of bloody deſigns, but imploying all his deſires to his Love, one obliging word from the Princeſs did move him more then the poſſeſſion of an Empire could have done.

He ſpent one evening with her with as much ſweetneſs and tranquillity, as if he had neither had Rivals nor enemies, and was taking his leave of her with the raviſhing joy of a ſucceſsful Lover, when he heard a crying in the Palace, that

the

the Prince of *Tanaïs* was dead. It is impossible to express *Asteria's* resentments at these pitiful cries, *Adanaxus* was so newly gone from her that she had not had the time to undress her self since that separation; and to hear his death proclaimed, struck her with an astonishment that gave her almost a mortal paleness, and she fell into a swoon that held her so long, as made her women believe she was quite expired.

The cryes increased up and down the Palace, *Tamberlain* was frightned at it, and *Axalla* enraged at the cruel destiny of so young a Prince, ran to the place where the massacred body lay (which was at the foot of a pair of Stairs that led to *Asteria's* Apartment.) He embraced it all bloody as it was, but it was not long e're by the light of several Flambeaus that the Servants brought, he discovered that the person departed was *Themir* and not *Adanaxus*: Oh

how great was *Axalla's* joy? What was the surprise of *Odmar* in beholding his dear hopes in the condition he thought the Prince of *Tunais* had been. The Emperour was also come to this place, and by his transports testified, how cruelly the loss of a Son so tenderly beloved, was like to be revenged. *Adanaxus* came thither too at the same time, and troubled at *Themir's* fate; how excusable soever he would have been, if he had not bewailed it. Ah! Seignior, said he to *Tamberlain*, whosoever is the murtherer of my Brother, he shall only dye by my hands. 'Tis I, interrupted *Odmar*, with an undaunted resolution, 'tis I who have given to the unfortunate *Themir*, that destiny which I only designed for thee: and when I thought thy death certain, I my self was the publisher of it by my outcries. I saw you go to *Asteria's* Apartment, and having long since resolved thy destruction, I waited here to sacri-

fice

fice thee, to give a pleasing surprise to *Themir* by the noise of thy death; my first designs not having been successful, I would not ow the execution of this last to any other hand than mine own: but fortune has proved base to me, and betrayed my intentions, and *Themir* who in all likelihood would have prevented me with resembling ones, is now unfortunately fallen under the horror of my stabs. *Odmar* spake like a man despairing, who only owed his unhappiness to his crimes; and perceiving the astonishment that every body was in by his discourse, gave him opportunity to pursue it. *Themir* was wicked through my care to make him so; continued he, for finding dispositions in him conformable to my desires, I made it my business to improve the malignity of them: He was absolutely mine and I was ambitious to see him have the Empire, but *Tamberlain*, be not surprised with so blind a passion, but

render

render justice to nature; for *Themir* was my Son, and in the first days of your own, your absence during the war of *China*, and the residence of your Queen at *Cambalu*, favouring my ambition, I very happily made an exchange of them: your young Prince died naturally in the exile to which I had sent him, and mine enjoying his place, would, had it not been for this fatal accident, have reigned over the *Tartars*: He was ignorant of his birth, and I had used my utmost industry, and address to make him dear to you, and *Adanaxus* to meet with your hatred, or at least your indifference, whom I looked upon as the only obstacle that could trouble me. But yet after the precaution of so many years, and the flattering Idea's I fed my self withal, I have inhumanely deprived my self of him, these are the effects of unconstant fortune, she yet demands one more, and he who has not trembled to

reach

reach the heart of his Son, ought not to have any pity for his own. At those words he ran a poniard up into his body, and then throwing himself upon that of *Themir*, he there expired in a moment. The death and the last words of *Odmar* produced new causes of astonishment, *Tamberlain* had not the power to recover himself out of his, to think that he had given the whole Empire of his Soul to an impostor, who had committed so many injustices against him, and caused the ruine of his true Son. This dreadful accident which was so great a justification to the Prince of *Tanais*, obliged the Emperour to make him a publick reparation for what was past, and not being able to tarry any longer in a place that was floating with such odious blood, he retired to his Apartment, and the generous *Adanaxus* after he had ordered that the wretched Bodies should be buried, returned to the

Princess

Princeſs, not doubting but that the eport of his death had ſufficiently larm'd her.

He found her in that diſmal ſwoon he fell into at the firſt outcry. Juſt Heavens, cryed he, ſeeing her in hat condition, ſhall I never enjoy a appineſs without ſuch afflicting al-ays, thoſe tears and the name of he Princeſs which he ſeveral times epeated, began to make her come o her ſelf. *Aſteria* at laſt opened er eyes, and caſting them upon *A-anaxus*; Ah! Seignior, ſaid ſhe to im, is it you I behold? Yes, Ma-am, replied the Prince, *Themir* as met with that deſtiny which was repared for me, *Ortobulus* is re-enged, I am without a Rival, I ow need not fear any other to per-ecute me, and for my greater joy, hat *Themir*, who was ſo odious to y Princeſs by too powerful reaſons, as not of the blood of *Adanaxus*. he Prince of *Tanaïs* who perceiv-d *Aſteria*, began to gather ſtrength

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by the joy he had inſpired into her at the Relation, gave her a true and full account of all the circumſtances and paſſages of it, how he had eſcaped death in paſſing through the Terrace.

The reſt of the Night paſſed in confuſion, *Aſteria* beheld her affection innocent, the murtherer of *Ortobulus* was not her Lover's Brother, and with a greater eaſe and tranquillity than ever, enjoyed the pleaſure of ſeeing her ſelf beloved by him.

This accident diveſted *Tamberlain* of that cruel Meen he had before, and which made him be looked upon with ſo much fear; now all his ſeverity with *Themir* had its ſepulture; his eyes loſt their fury; and put a very pleaſing ſweetneſs on his face, and all thoſe whom the addreſs and ſubtlety of *Odmar*, and his complaiſances for *Themir*, had removed from his eſteem, received then freſh aſſurances of it from him.

As *Adanaxus* only now took up all his thoughts, he minded nothing but how to complete his happiness. He went to visit *Asteria*, testified to her the sincere grief he had at the afflictions he had procured her, restored her all the conquests he had made in her Father's Kingdom, to dispose of how she pleased, and offered her the Crown of the *Tartars* with *Adanaxus*. It was not possible that such a proffer as this could be displeasing to the Princess, She loved the Prince of *Tanaïs*, *Bajazet* had given him his esteem, and she thought she could not do any wrong to his memory in marrying him; but as he had left her Brothers, she acquainted the Emperour that she could not dispose of her self without their allowance. This reason appeared to him but just and equitable, he order'd *Alizanes* and *Calixtus* two illustrious *Tartars*, to go and find them out. The impatience of *Adanaxus* made some little mur-

mur.

mur at it, but he was necessitated to submit to the Princess. *Bajazet's* Sons were found on the ruines of the *Ottoman* Empire, rallying by the help of their Neighbours such forces, they thought might be sufficient to go out against *Tamberlain*. The Letters of *Asteria* and the conquest which were restored, put an end to that design; they now were thinking only how to raise up the Throne of *Bajazet*; which *Mahomet* the youngest of those Sons some few years after the death of the other brought again to its first splendour. The *Tartars* returned, having managed their negotiation with success. *Adanaxeus's* love was authorized and the mariage of *Asteria* recompenced his fidelity in the great City of *Samarcanda*, where they passed away their days in a lasting happiness, after so many long and tedious persecutions.

FINIS.